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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 December Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Addresses UN General Assembly *[Cairo Radio]* 3
'Arafat Postpones Geneva Press Conference *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 10
PLO's Abu Sharif Denies U.S. Visit, Message *[WAKH]* 10
Qaddumi on PNC Resolution, Stockholm Meeting *[WAKH]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Polling Booths Set Up for 22 Dec Elections *[APS]* 12
Rescue Team, Aid Sent To Armenia Quake Areas *[APS]* 12
Venezuelan President-elect Arrives in Algiers *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Makes Statement, Departs *[APS]* 12

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Speaks at UN General Assembly *[Cairo Radio]* 12
'Abd al-Majid Discusses Various Issues 16
On Israeli 'Invasion' *[AL-AHRAM 10 Dec]* 16
PLO Stand, Visa Issue, Tabah *[MENA]* 16
State's Role in Human Rights *[Cairo Radio]* 17
On Palestinian Issue, Syria *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Arab Relations, Tabah *[AL-AHRAM]* 17
Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn Exchange Views *[Cairo Radio]* 21

Libya

JANA Editor Denies Mediations With Egypt *[JANA]* 21
Algerian Ministers Arrive for Visit *[Tripoli Radio]* 22

Sudan

Pilot, MiG Handed Over to 'Outlaw Forces' *[SUNA]* 22
Agreement Signed on Return of Chadian Opposition *[SUNA]* 22
Government Urged To Issue Formal Statement on Pact *[SUNA]* 23
SPLA Sending Teams Abroad To Explain Peace Moves *[Radio SPLA]* 23
Forces Kill 26 'Foreign Troops' in Darfur Region *[Omdurman Radio]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

British State Minister for Defense Arrives *[WAKH]* 24
Confers With Defense Minister *[WAKH]* 24
Departs After Talks *[WAKH]* 24
Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly *[WAKH]* 24

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly *[KUNA]* 25
Defense Minister Receives PLO Officials *[KUNA]* 26

PDRY

Reportage on Visit of CSSR Defense Minister 26
Arrives 9 Dec *[Aden Radio]* 26
Visits Air Force Headquarters *[Aden Radio]* 26
Confers With Counterpart *[Prague Radio]* 27
Concludes Visit, Departs *[ANA]* 27

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit of Syrian President al-Asad 27
Arrives 13 Dec *[Riyadh Radio]* 27
Confers With King Fahd *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 27
More on Talks With Fahd *[Damascus Radio]* 28
Meets With Crown Prince *[SPA]* 28

IRAQ

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly *[Baghdad Radio]* 29
Military Source Denies Cease-Fire Violation *[Baghdad Radio]* 30
Reportage on Visit of French Foreign Minister 31
Arrives 11 Dec *[INA]* 31
Holds News Conference *[INA]* 31
Attends 'Official' Talks *[Baghdad Radio]* 31
Confers With Sa'dun Hammadi *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
Discusses Bilateral Cooperation *[INA]* 32
Proposes Debt Rescheduling *[Paris Radio]* 32
Ends Visit, Departs *[INA]* 32

ISRAEL

Prime Minister Shamir Comments on 'Arafat Speech *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Further on Shamir Reaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
More on Shamir, Peres Reactions *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Peres Says Choice of Portfolio Depends on 'Arafat *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Peres To Comment on 'Arafat Speech 'Tomorrow' *[Jerusalem TV]* 35
Peres: Bush To Send Kissinger on Mideast Mission *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Dec]* 36
Rabin on 'Arafat Speech, Murders in Berakha *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Sharon Sees No Change in 'Arafat, PLO Position *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
JERUSALEM POST Editorial on 'Arafat Speech *[14 Dec]* 38
Jerusalem Arabic Views 'Uprising' Anniversary *[Jerusalem International]* 39
Alignment 'Doves' See PLO Move as 'Significant' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
2 Arab Knesset Members Meet 'Arafat in Geneva *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Dec]* 40
Greece Rejects Protest on Release of 'Terrorist' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Egyptian Ambassador on Bilateral Ties, Peace *[Jerusalem International]* 40
Liaison Team Discusses Tabah Borders With Egypt *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Lahd's Condition Shows 'Gradual Improvement' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
SLA Soldier Wounded by 'Terrorist' Gunfire *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 41
Settler, Soldier, Arab Killed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
House of Killer Destroyed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
3 Golan Druze Wounded by Mine *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Bus Firebombed in E. Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
3 Arabs Wounded in Riots *[Jerusalem TV]* 41

Delegation 'Appalled' at Damage to Arab Education *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 42
Jordan To Allow Transit of Gaza Strip Produce *[AL-NAHAR 11 Dec]* 42
Trade Deficit Widens 'Dramatically' in Oct, Nov *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 Dec]* 42
Tourism Drops 22 Percent in November *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42

JORDAN

King Husayn Congratulates 'Arafat on UN Speech *[Amman TV]* 43
Says Speech 'Met All Conditions' *[Amman Radio]* 43
Foreign Minister al-Masri Speaks at UN Session *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Dec]* 43
SAWT AL-SHA'B Criticizes U.S. Stand on PLO *[14 Dec]* 45

LEBANON

Shaykh Sha'ban Denounces 'Arafat's Speech *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 46
3 Palestinian Deportees Arrive in South *[VOM]* 46
Amal Statement on 13 Dec Clash With Hizballah *[Beirut Radio]* 46
Resistance Group Attacks 'Agent' Position 14 Dec *[Beirut Radio]* 46

SYRIA

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi Addresses 'Uprising' Rally *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Damascus Radio on Al-Asad's Riyadh Visit 48
Qaddurah Receives USSR Parliamentary Delegation *[Damacus TV]* 48
Relief Aid to Armenia To Continue 'Daily' *[Damascus Radio]* 48

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rebel Leader Rabbani Rejects Demilitarization *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Dec]* 49
Mujahidin Operations in East, West Detailed *[Islamabad Radio]* 49
Defense Official on Opening of Major Highways *[BAKHTAR]* 49

Bangladesh

Police Clash With Strikers; 1 Killed, 100 Wounded *[AFP]* 50

India

'Non-Explosive' U.S. Missile Hits Merchant Ship *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Venkataraman Greets Ishaq Khan on Election *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Delegation Accompanying Gandhi to China Listed *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

Protesters Occupy Consulate in Geneva *[AFP]* 51
2 Killed in Iraqi Cease-Fire Violation *[IRNA]* 51
Khamene'i Promises Solutions to Tribal Problems *[Tehran TV]* 51
USSR Envoy Comments on Antidrug Cooperation *[IRNA]* 52
UK Charge d'Affaires Views Relations *[KEYHAN 6 Dec]* 52
Editorial on Tehran-Bonn Ties, U.S. Influence *[KEYHAN HAVAI 7 Dec]* 55

Nepal

Prince Renounces Royal Title, Privileges 13 Dec *[Kathmandu International]* 55

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Sworn In; Leaders Talk With Press *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Bhutto on Tension With India, 'Terrorists' *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Envoy Conveys Libyan Leader's Message to Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 56

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Upholds Indian Pact in BBC Interview *[AFP]* 56
Maximum Security Jail Raided; Inmates Freed *[AFP]* 57
Over 220 Prisoners Escape *[Delhi Radio]* 58
Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Trincomalee Area *[AFP]* 58
Ministry Directs Employees To Report for Duty *[Colombo Radio]* 58

14 December Middle East and South Asia Review

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'Arafat Speaks to UN General Assembly

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced a "Palestinian peace initiative" in his speech to the UN General Assembly (UNGA), and he urged "the leaders of Israel" to come to Geneva and make peace under UN auspices.

The initiative calls for: "serious work" to convene a preparatory committee for an international conference; UN temporary supervision of Palestinian land and deployment of UN forces to supervise the withdrawal of Israeli forces; and a comprehensive peaceful settlement between the sides in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the "State of Palestine" and Israel, within the framework of an international conference and in accordance with Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

Elsewhere in his speech, which was broadcast by Cairo radio, the PLO leader stressed that the Palestinians "yearn for peace" and he said the recent PNC resolutions reflect the "seriousness" of the Palestinian position in this regard.

While condemning terrorism "in all its forms," 'Arafat hailed those in the audience who were "accused by their executioners and colonialists of being terrorists during the battles for the liberation of their land from the yoke of colonialism."

Without directly mentioning the issue of recognition of Israel, 'Arafat criticized the U.S. Administration for requiring the PLO alone to adopt "positions that cannot be decided before negotiations and dialogue start."

He added that "acknowledging the equality and rights of the two parties to the conflict, on a mutual basis, is the sole prelude toward answering the clarifications requested by any quarter."

Reviewing developments in the Mideast conflict since his previous UNGA address in 1974, 'Arafat said it is "painful and regrettable" that the U.S. Government "alone" continues to back Israel's "expansionist and aggressive plans" while still refusing to recognize "the right of 6 million Palestinians to self-determination."

Stressing that the "only birth certificate" for the establishment of the State of Israel is UN Resolution No 181, which stipulates the establishment of two states in Palestine, 'Arafat wondered how the U.S. Government supports this resolution in regard to Israel while it "simultaneously rejects the other half of this resolution which pertains to the Palestinian state."

He also asked how the U.S. Government explains its noncommitment to Resolution No 194, which provides for the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland or to receive compensation.

Explaining the recent PNC resolutions, 'Arafat emphasized that the declaration of the Palestinian state is an "irreversible" decision, and he added that a provisional government will be formed at the nearest possible opportunity.

The Palestinian state is peaceloving and committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, he said.

Palestinians "do not want any right to which they are not entitled" and they are "not seeking any freedom that encroaches upon the freedom of others."

The PLO leader also thanked "honorable and courageous" Jews, inside and outside Israel, who do not agree with the Israeli Government's policies and who acknowledge Palestinian rights.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir viewed 'Arafat's remarks as part of a "monumental act of deception" in which the PLO is seeking to "deceive the international community by an illusion of moderation."

Speaking at a news conference carried by Jerusalem radio, Shamir emphasized that Israel will "not negotiate with the PLO under any conditions nor recognize it," as the PLO is "no partner for any peace process."

On the U.S. conditions for a dialogue with the PLO, Shamir affirmed that the PLO has not met these conditions, and he pointed out that 'Arafat's speech contained no recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Israel does not believe the PLO is capable of accepting the U.S. conditions because they "contradict its very existence and raison d'etre," the prime minister said.

He expressed hope that the United States will never establish contacts with the PLO.

In a related IDF radio broadcast, Shamir dismissed 'Arafat's call for Israeli leaders to come to Geneva, saying this is an invitation to an international conference rather than to direct negotiations with anyone.

He also stressed that the PLO's "political attack" calls for the formation of a "united front" within Israel and is an additional reason for establishing a government of national unity.

As for the Alignment reaction, IDF radio reported that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' 14 December speech to the Knesset would contain references to the "positive" as well as the "negative" aspects of 'Arafat's remarks.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the radio that the PLO has not fulfilled the conditions stipulated in the 1975 U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding, concluded between his administration and Dr Henry Kissinger.

Israel tried at that time to ensure that the memorandum was worded in such a way that the PLO would be incapable of adopting it, he disclosed.

Among Arab reaction to 'Arafat's speech, Jordan's King Husayn telephoned the PLO leader to stress Jordan's support for the PLO's positions, Amman television noted.

Husayn also contended that 'Arafat has now met "all" U.S. demands, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

An editorial by Amman's SAWT AL-SHA'B said the U.S. Administration "rejected the Palestinian peace initiative" under the influence of "Zionist pressure lobbies," adding that the Arabs must exert "maximum pressure" to make the United States change its position.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak described 'Arafat's speech as "truly splendid," adding that he does not know what more is required of the PLO leader, according to MENA.

Mubarak said he is certain of 'Arafat's sincerity in denouncing terrorism, and he contended that the PLO leader cannot be held responsible for all acts of Palestinian terrorism as nobody can guarantee that terrorist operations will not occur.

In an UNGA speech carried by Cairo radio, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid called on Israel to respond favorably to the "positive" Palestinian position so that a "just and comprehensive" peace can be achieved on the basis of mutual recognition between the Israeli and Palestinian states.

Israel: Violence in Territories

Soldiers killed an Arab villager in Nabulus after he seized the weapon of a Jewish settler and used it to kill the settler and an IDF soldier, Jerusalem radio reported.

Commenting on the incident, Defense Minister Rabin said in an interview with IDF radio that it was "nationalist" in character, though it may have been triggered by a land dispute.

In other violence, three residents were injured when the IDF dispersed West Bank riots, Jerusalem television reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Syria-Saudi Arabia—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was received in Riyadh by Saudi King Fahd, Damascus radio reported.

Al-Asad also held separate talks with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah, SPA disclosed.

Radio Monte Carlo said the Saudi-Syrian talks would focus on the need for Lebanese elections, reconciliation between Syria and the PLO, the Gulf situation, and Egypt's return to the Arab League.

The Syrian paper AL-THAWRAH linked the visit with Syria's desire to obtain a united Arab front against "the dangers posed by the Zionist entity," according to Damascus radio.

The Syrian leader was accompanied on the visit by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Riyadh radio noted.

Libya-Egypt—The JANA Arab Affairs editor denied a report in the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD that said mediation took place between Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, PLO leader 'Arafat, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on efforts to improve Egytian-Libyan relations.

The editor went on to assert that Libya never requested permission to fly over Egyptian airspace, as there is no need for it, except in the case of Libyan planes carrying pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

He confirmed, however, that Libya does wish to reopen its land borders with Egypt.

Iran-Iraq Border Skirmish

Two Iranian border guards were killed and four wounded when Iraqi forces violated the cease-fire on the southern front 11 December, IRNA announced.

An Iraqi military source cited by Baghdad radio contended that Iran violated the cease-fire first and Iraq was only returning fire.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Addresses UN General Assembly

NC1312165188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1411 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat before the UN General Assembly meeting at the UN European headquarters in Geneva—live]

[Text] Mr Chairman and Members: It never occurred to me that my second meeting since 1974 with this esteemed assembly would take place in the hospitable city of Geneva.

I believed that the position and the new political stands which our Palestinian people had adopted during the PNC meeting in Algiers, all of which were announced amid great international appreciation and welcome, would have behooved me to go to the UN Headquarters in New York to acquaint you with our resolutions and views regarding the cause of peace in our homeland as formulated by our PNC, which is the highest legislative authority in the Palestinian political body.

Therefore, my meeting with you in Geneva today after an unjust U.S. decision which prevented me from going to you there is a cause of my pride and joy. My pride stems from the fact that I am with you and among you because you are the main platform for all issues of right and justice in the world.

My joy derives from the fact that I am present in Geneva where justice and neutrality are words on all tongues and are a constitution in a world in which the arrogance of the strong make them lose their neutrality and sense of justice.

Consequently, the resolution issued by your esteemed assembly, with the concurrence of 154 states to hold this meeting, was not a victory over the U.S. decision but a victory for the international unanimity in upholding right and the cause of peace in an unparalleled referendum. It is also evident that our people's just cause has taken root in the fabric of the human conscience.

Our Palestinian people will not forget this noble stand by your esteemed assembly and these friendly states in support of right and justice to safeguard the values and principles for which the United Nations was established. This stand will be translated into feelings of confidence and reassurance by all peoples who suffer injustice, coercion, and occupation, and who are, like our Palestinian people, struggling for freedom, dignity, and life.

On this occasion, I express the deepest thanks to all the countries, forces, international organizations, and world personalities that have supported our people and backed their national rights, particularly the friends in the Soviet Union, the PRC, the socialist countries, the nonaligned countries, the Islamic countries, the African countries, the Asian countries, the Latin American countries, and all the other friendly countries.

I also thank the countries of Western Europe and Japan for their recent stands toward our people. I call on them to take more steps on the course of positive development of these decisions in order to open the vistas for peace and the just solution in our region, the Middle East region.

I also underline our solidarity with and backing for the liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa in their struggle, and also our support for the African confrontation states against the aggressions of the racist South African regime.

I take this opportunity too to express my thaanks and gratitude to the friendly countries that have supported us and backed our PNC resolutions, and also recognized the State of Palestine.

I also thank His Excellency UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and his assistants for their constant efforts to achieve the international detente sought by humanity and solutions for world problems, particularly those concerning the Palestinian issue.

I also express my thanks and appreciation to the chairman and members of the committee on the Palestinian peoples' exercise of their inalienable rights for their efforts toward our peoples' cause. I also greet and thank the nine-member committee of the nonaligned countries on the Palestinian issue for all its constructive work for our peoples' cause.

To you, Mr Chairman, I express the warmest greetings on the occasion of your election as chairman of this assembly. I am fully confident of your wisdom and knowledge. I also greet your predecessor for his noble chairmanship of the former session.

Last, I express my greetings and deep thanks to the Swiss Government and people for the great help, facilities, and efforts they have extended for this session.

Mr Chairman, members, on 13 November 1974—14 years ago—I received with gratitude an invitation from you to present the cause of our Palestinian people before this esteemed Assembly. Now I return to you here after all these years, which were fraught with grave events, to see that new peoples have taken their places among you, thus crowning their victories in the battles of freedom and independence.

To the repesentatives of these peoples I extend the warm congratulations of our people and to everyone I announce that I return to you with a louder voice, stronger determination, and greater confidence to emphasize that our struggle must bear fruit and that the State of Palestine, which we proclaimed in our National

Council, must take its place among you, so it could take part with you in consolidating the charter of this organization and the human rights convention, in putting an end to the tragedies to which humanity is being subjected, and in laying down the bases of right, justice, peace, and freedom for all, for all, for all.

Fourteen years ago, when you said to us in the General Assembly hall yes to Palestine and the Palestinian people; yes to the PLO; and yes to the firm national rights of the Palestinian people, some thought your decisions would have hardly any effect. They failed to realize these decisions were among the most important springs that have watered the olive branch that I carried on that day. This branch, after we had it watered with blood sweat, and tears, has become a tree whose root is in the ground and its branches in the sky, promising the yields of victory over repression, injustice, and occupation.

You have given us hope for the victory of freedom and justice and we have given you a generation from the sons of our people that have devoted their lifetime to achieving this dream. It is the generation of the blessed uprising which today is carrying the stones of the homeland to defend the honor of this homeland, so it can be worthy of belonging to a people that yearn for freedom and independence. Greetings to all of you from the sons of our hero people—men and women—and from the masses of our blessed uprising, which enters its 2d year with huge momentum, meticulously planned tactics, and a democratic civilized method in confronting the occupation, oppression, injustice, and the bestial crimes which the Israeli occupiers are committing against them daily.

Greetings to you from our male and female youths in occupation prisons and mass detention camps. Greetings to you from the stonethrowing children, who are challenging the occupation and its aircraft, tanks, and weaponry, reminiscent of the new image of the defenseless Palestinian David versus the heavily-armed Israeli Goliath.

At the conclusion of my speech during our first meeting I said that as chairman of the PLO and leader of the Palestinian revolution, we emphasize our desire not to see a drop of Jewish or Arab blood spilled. We also do not want to continue the fighting for 1 more minute. At that time I appealed to you to end all this suffering and pain and to hasten to draw up the basis for the just peace based on the guarantee of our peoples' rights, aspirations, and hopes and the right of all peoples.

At that time I appealed to you to support the struggle of our people to exercise their right to self-determination to enable our people to return from their compulsory exile to which they had been pushed under bayonets of rifles and to help us end this injustice which generations of our people have been suffering for several decades so they could live free and sovereign in their homeland and country while enjoying all their national and human rights.

The last thing I said from this platform is that war erupts from Palestine and that peace starts in Palestine. Our dream then was to set up the democratic state of Palestine, in which Muslims, Christians, and Jews would live on an equal footing, in terms of rights and duties, under a single, unified society, similar to other peoples on this earth and in our contemporary world.

We were greatly astonished when we saw Israeli officials interpreting this Palestinian dream—which is inspired by the legacy of the heavenly messages that have illuminted the skies of Palestine and by the civilized and humane values that call for coexistence in a free and democratic society—as a scheme that aims to destroy and annihilate their entity.

It was our duty, Mr Chairman, to learn a lesson from this difficult situation and to note the distance between this situation and the dream. We, in the PLO, began searching for the realistic alternative formulas, which are applicable, to find a solution to the question based on the possible and not absolute justice which would guarantee our peoples' rights to freedom, sovereignty, and independence; guarantee peace, security, and stability to all; and avoid the Palestine and Middle East wars and battles which have, regrettably, been going on for 40 years.

Mr Chairman, did we not adopt the UN Charter and its resolutions, the human rights declaration, and international legitimacy as a basis for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict? Did we not welcome the 1977 Vance-Gromyko declaration as an initiative which could serve as a basis for a plan to solve this conflict?

Did we not agree to participate in the Geneva conference in accordance with the 1977 Egyptian-U.S. statement to advance the process of peace and solution in our region? Did we not adopt the 1982 Fes Arab peace plan and later the call for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and according to its resolutions?

Did we not support Brezhnev's peace plan for the Middle East? Did we not welcome and support the statement issued by the EC countries in Venice concerning the establishment of just peace in the region?

Did we not welcome and support the initiative of Presidents Gorbachev and Mitterrand concerning the preparatory committee for an international conference?

Did we not welcome scores of political statements and initiatives put forward by African, Muslim, nonaligned, socialist, European, and other nations with the aim of finding a peaceful settlement, in accordance with the principles of international law and with the goal of establishing peace and resolving the conflict?

What was Israel's reaction to all that? Please note that all these peace initiatives, plans, and statements to which I have referred were evenhanded. None of these initaitives ignored the demands and interests of any of the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel reacted to all that by building more settlements, by escalating its expansionist policies, and by exacerbating the conflict. Israel engaged in a policy of destruction and bloodshed and widened the front of hostility to include brotherly Lebanon.

The occupation armies of Israel swept over Lebanon in 1982. The invasion of Lebanon was accompanied by the slaughter and massacre of the Lebanese and Palestinian people, including the Sabra and Shatila massacres. Israel is still at this moment occupying a part of the Lebanese south. Lebanon is daily coming under Israeli land, air, and sea attacks and raids against its towns and villages, a fate shared by our camps in the south of that country.

It is painful and regrettable that the U.S. Government alone should continue to back and support these Israeli expansionist and aggressive plans; support Israel's continuing occupation of Palestinian and Arab territory; and support its crimes and iron-fist policy against our children and women.

It also is sad and painful that the U.S. Government should continue to refuse to recognize the right of 6 million Palestinians to self-determination. This is a sacred right to the American people themselves and all the peoples of earth.

I remind them of President Wilson's stand, the architect of the two unviersal principles in international relations; namely, the inadmissibility of the occupation of the territories of others by force and the right of peoples to self-determination.

When the Palestinian people were consulted in 1919 by the King-Crane Commission, they chose the United States of America as the mandate country. But circumstances prevented this and Britain took its place.

I ask the American people; I ask the American people: Is it right, is it right that what President Wilson had decreed should not be applied to the Palestinian people? The subsequent U.S. Administrations know that the only birth certificate for the establishment of the State of Israel is international Resolution 181, which was issued by the UN General Assembly on 29 November 1947.

At that time, the United States and the Soviet Union approved this resolution. It stipulates the establishment of two states in Palestine—a Palestinian Arab state and a Jewish state.

How could the U.S. Government explain its stand, which acknowledges and recognizes the same resolution which pertains to Israel, while, it simultaneously rejects the other half of this resolution which pertains to the Palestinian state?

How could the U.S. Government explain its noncommitment to implementing a resolution which it had repeatedly sponsored at your esteemed Assembly, Resolution 194, which provides for the Palestinians' right to return to their homeland and property from which they were expelled or to compensate those who do not wish to return.

The U.S. Government is aware that it is neither its right nor the right of others to divide international legitimacy and disintegrate the provisions of international laws.

Mr Chairman and members of the Assembly, the continuing struggle of our people for the sake of their rights dates back scores of years, during which our people have presented hundreds of thousands of martyrs and wounded and suffered all kinds of tragic tortures. But these people have not relented and their determination has not faltered. But, rather, it has consolidated their determination to cling to their Palestinian homeland and to their national identity.

Israel's leaders, who were taken by deceptive intoxication, believed that, after our departure from Beirut, the sea would swallow the PLO. They did not expect that the departure into oblivion [rahil al-manasi] would turn into a road leading back to the homeland, the real arena of the struggle, and to occupied Palestine. The valiant popular uprising inside our occupied land broke out and will continue until our goals of freedom and national independence are realized.

I have the honor, Mr Chairman, of being one of the sons of these people who record with the blood of their children, women, and men the most splended epics of national resistance and who create daily miracles of which legends are made so that their uprising will continue and so this uprising will develop and grow stronger until they impose their willpower and until they prove that right can defeat might.

I extend greetings of admiration to the masses of our people who are now making this unique revolutionary and democratic experiment. Their faith has not been shaken by all of Israel's war machine, has not been terrorized by all kinds of bullets, and has not been affected by people being buried alive or having their bones broken, or by causing pregnant women to abort, or by the seizure of water sources.

The masses' resolution has not been weakened by detention, imprisonment, deportation, and expulsion outside the homeland. The collective punishment and demolition of houses, the closing of universities, schools, trade unions, societies and establishments, the suspension of

newspapers, and the besieging of camps, villages, and cities have only established this faith more firmly. The revolution has spread to every house and taken root in every inch of the homeland's soil.

A people with such conduct and history cannot be defeated. All forces of repression and terrorism cannot dissuade the people from their firm belief in their right to their homeland and in the values of justice, peace, love, and tolerant coexistence.

The rebel's rifle has protected us and precluded our liquidation and the destruction of our national identity in the fields of hot confrontation. We are fully confident of our ability to protect the biggest olive branch in the fields of political confrontation.

That the world is rallying around our just cause to achieve just peace brilliantly indicates that the world realizes in no vague terms who is the executioner and who is the victim, who is the aggressor and who is aggressed upon, and who is the struggler for freedom and peace and who is the terrorist.

The daily practices of the occupation army's forces and fanatic armed settlers' gangs against our people, children, and women expose the ugly face and aggressive nature of the Israeli occupation.

This growing world awareness has affected the Jewish societies themselves inside and outside Israel. It has opened these societies' eyes to the reality of the problem and essence of the conflict, particularly to the inhuman daily Israeli practices which destroy the very spirit of the tolerant Jewish religion itself.

It has become difficult and almost impossible for a Jew to declare his rejection of racial oppression and his adherence to freedom and human rights while remaining silent over Israel's crimes and violations of the rights of the Palestinian man, the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian homeland, particularly over the abominable daily practices of the occupiers and gangs of armed settlers.

Mr Chairman: We differentiate between the Jewish citizen whose awareness and [word indistinct] of his conscience have been subject to the Israeli ruling circles' continual efforts to obliterate and falsify and between the practices of Israel's leaders.

Furthermore, we realize that both inside and outside Israel there are honorable and courageous Jews who do not agree with the Government of Israel over the policy of repression, massacres, expansion, settlement, and deportation and who admit the equal rights of our people for life, freedom, and independence. In the name of the Palestinian people, I thank them, thank them, thank them for this courageous and frank position.

Our people do not want any right to which they are not entitled and which is not compatible with international legality and laws. They are not seeking any freedom that encroaches upon the freedom of others or any destiny that cancels the destiny of another people.

Our people refuse to be more privileged than others, or for others to be more privileged than they are. Our people want equality with all other peoples, having the same rights and obligations.

Today I address this appeal to all the people of the world, particularly those who have suffered from the Nazi occupation and who have believed it to be their duty to turn the page of repression and injustice by any people against another and to extend help to all the victims of terrorism, fascism, and Nazism, so that they could clearly see the responsibilities dictated by history upon them toward our suffering people, who want a place under the sun for their children in their homeland, in which they could live like the rest of the children of the world.

They want a place under the sun for their children in their homeland in which they can live like the rest of the children of the world, free on their liberated land.

Mr Chairman, members, it is a cause for optimism that our march of struggle has climaxed into the ongoing uprising at a time when the international climate is one of earnest detente and prosperity.

We have been following with great satisfaction the successes of the United Nations and the UN secretary general in bringing about solutions to many problems and in many areas of tension in the world in this new atmosphere of international detente.

The improvement in the international atmosphere cannot be consolidated without attention being paid to regional problems and areas of tension. We need to forge a human conscience that is more sensitive and responsible in assessing the efforts of man and the policies of nations and more capable of carrying us into the next century.

We have new challenges and responsibilities to face away from, away from wars and destruction, and for more, for more freedom, prosperity, peace, and progress for all mankind.

Mr Chairman, it is indisputable that the Palestinian issue is the most complicated problem of our time. It is the earliest problem on UN records, the most intricate issue, and the most menacing to international peace and security.

Therefore, the Palestinian issue, more than any other international problem, should be a reason of concern to the two superpowers and other world nations. Efforts

should be made to find a solution to this issue. A just solution of the Palestinian problem would be the best guarantee for peace in the Middle East.

The PLO leadership, as it is responsible for the Palestinian people and its future, faithful to the struggle of the Palestinian people, loyal to the memory of the martyrs, responsive to the atmosphere of detente, aware of the need to engage in peaceful political efforts, and desirous of a political solution ending the course of war and fighting and opening the door to a peaceful existence governed by the norms of international law, had called the PNC for an extraordinary session in Algiers from 12 to 15 November of this year.

The goal was to define and clarify our position as a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict; a party without the participation and endorsement of which a solution to this conflict cannot be achieved.

I am pleased to tell you with full pride that our National Council, through full democratic practice and under complete freedom, has once again proven its ability to shoulder its supreme national responsibilities and has made serious, constructive, and responsible decisions that have paved the way for deepening and showing our desire and our contribution toward finding a peaceful settlement that guarantees the national and political rights of our people and that ensures security and peace for everyone.

Mr Chairman, the first and decisive resolution taken by our National Council was the declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital on the basis of the natural, historic, and legal right of the Palestinian Arab people to their homeland and the sacrifices of successive generations in defense of their homeland's freedom and independence.

It also stems from the resolutions of the Arab summits and from the strength of international legitimacy which is embodied by the UN resolutions since 1947. It is the Palestinian Arab people's exercise of their right to self-determination, political independence, and sovereignty over their land in accordance with your successive resolutions.

I would like to reiterate before the international community that this historic resolution—now that it has become an official UN document—is irreversible and that we will not stop to work until the occupation ends and our people exercise their sovereignty in their own state—the State of Palestine for all Palestinians wherever they are.

In this state they can develop their national and cultural identity, enjoy full equality of rights, and have their religious and political beliefs and their human dignity upheld in a democratic parliamentary system, established on the basis of freedom of opinion, the formation of parties, due regard by the majority for the rights of the minority, respect by the minority for the decisions of the majority, social justice and equality, and non-discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or color or between man and woman under a constitution that imposes legal supremacy—legal supremacy—and an independent judiciary and on the basis of full loyalty to Palestine's spiritual and cultural heritage of tolerance and generous coexistence among religions throughout the centuries.

The State of Palestine is an Arab state and its people constitute a part of their Arab nation in terms of heritage, culture, and hopes regarding social development, unity, and liberation. This state abides by the Arab League Charter, UN principles, the International Declaration of Human Rights, and principles of nonalignment.

It is a peaceloving state committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence and to working alongside all countries and peoples to establish a just, lasting peace based on justice and a respect of rights.

It is a state which believes in the settlement of international and regional problems through peaceful means in accordance with the UN Charter and resolutions.

It rejects threats of violence, force, or terrorism against its territorial integrity and political independence and the territorial integrity of any other state, as well as any encroachment on its natural rights to defend its territaories and independence.

It is a state which believes that the future will only bring security to those who acted justly and even those who renounced justice. This, Mr Chairman, is the State of Palestine, which we had proclaimed and which we will consolidate so it will assume its position among world countries and participate and excel in fforming a free world in which justice will prevail and in which peace will be enjoyed.

Our state will have its own provisional government at the nearest possible opportunity, God willing.

The PNC has entrusted the PLO Executive Committee with the obligation of assuming the tasks of this provisional government until it is formed. To implement this decision, the PNC adopted several important decisions which emphasize our determination to seriously forge ahead in the just, peaceful settlement process and to exert utmost efforts to render it a success.

Our National Council stressed the need to convene an international conference on the Middle East problem, whose core is the issue of Palestine, under UN auspices and with the participation of the states which are permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the conflict in the region including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on an equal footing since the international conference will

convene in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the basis of the guarantee of the national, political, legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, foremost being their right to self-determination.

Our National Council also has emphasized that Israel must withdraw from all Palestinian and Arab territories which it has occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem—including Arab Jerusalem; that the Palestinian state must be set up; that all the annexation decisions must be cancelled; and that the settlements which Israel has established in the Palestinian and Arab territories since 1967 must be removed. The Arab summits, particularly the Fes and Algiers summits, have endorsed this.

Our National Council has asserted that endeavors must be launched to place the occupied Palestinian territories, including Arab Jerusalem, under the supversion of the United Nations for a limited period to defend our people and to create the appropriate atmosphere to ensure the success of the activities of an international conference, to achieve a comprehensive political settlement, and to establish peace and security for all the peoples and states in the Middle East with their mutual consent to enable the State of Palestine to exercise its actual powers in these territories. This also has been emphasized by the resolutions adopted at Arab summits.

Our council also has emphasized the need to settle the issue of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with UN resolutions. It also has emphasized that freedom of worship and performance of religious rites in holy places in Palestine will be guaranteed to the followers of all religions.

The National Council has reaffirmed its previous decisions regarding the distinguished and special relationship between the two fraternal Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

It affirmed the future relationship between the State of Palestine and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will be established on a confederal basis and on the basis of a voluntary and free choice of the two fraternal peoples to strengthen the historical bonds and vital interests between them.

The council reasserted the need for the Security Council to lay down and guarantee the security and peace arrangements among all the states concerned with the conflict in the region.

I would like to point out here, Mr Chairman, that these decisions reflect—as is clear from their contents and phraseology—our firm conviction with regard to peace and freedom and with regard to our deep understanding and appreciation of the climate of the international rapproachment and detente and of the eagerness of the world community to achieve balanced solutions responding to the basic interests and demands of the parties to the conflict.

These decisions also reflect the seriousness of the Palestinian stand toward the issue of peace, its eagerness for it, and the need to guarantee and ensure it through the Security Council and under the supervision of the United Nations.

These decisions carry the clear-cut and decisive answer to all the excuses, preconditions, and pretexts which some countries have used with respect to the positions and policy of the PLO.

At a time when our people have been voting for peace through their uprising and their representatives in the PNC and at a time when our PNC has been voting for peace, stressing its response to the prevailing trend which is being strengthened by the era of new detente in international relations to resolve world conflicts through peaceful means, the Israeli Government is nourishing aggressive and expansionist tendencies and religious fanaticism to stress its adherence to the option of aggression and of ignoring our peoples' right.

The Palestinian side, for its part, has formulated clear-cut and (?responsible) political stands that are in line with the will of the international community, in a bid to help convene an international peace conference and to ensure its success.

The courageous international support, as demonstrated by the recognition of the State of Palestine, which we appreciate, constitutes irrefutable evidence of the soundness of our course, the credibility of our decisions, and their compatibility with the international peaceloving will.

Despite our great appreciation for the free U.S. voices which have hastened to explain and support our positions and decisions, the U.S. Administration, however, still has no unified criterion to apply toward the parties to the conflict, requiring us alone to adopt positions that cannot be decided [la yumkin hasmaha] before negotiations and dialogue start within the framework of an international conference.

I would like to state that acknowledging the equality and rights of the two parties to the conflict, on a mutual basis, is the sole prelude toward answering the clarifications requested by any quarter. If the policies and deeds are any indication of intentions, the Palestinian party has a better reason to worry and demand clarifications and assurances about its destiny and future with regard to the State of Israel, which is armed with the most modern weapons, including nuclear weapons.

Mr Chairman, members, our PNC has reiterated its adherence to UN resolutions endorsing the right of nations to resist foreign ocupation, imperialism, and racial discrimination, as well as the right of nations to struggle for freedom.

The PNC reiterated its rejection of terrorism; it reiterated its rejection of terrorism of all kinds—of terrorism of all kinds, including state terrorism—including state terrorism.

In this respect, the PNC underscored its commitment to its own previous resolutions, to the resolutions of the Arab summit in Algiers in 1988, to UN Resolutions 159/42 for 1987 and 40/61 for 1985, and to the Cairo Declaration issued on 7 November 1985 in this regard.

Our position, Mr Chairman, is clear and unambiguous. However, I, in my capacity as chairman of the PLO, declare from here once more—declare from here once more:

I condemn terrorism in all its forms, but, I, at the same time, salute all those before me in this hall who have been accused by their executioners and colonialists of being terrorists during the battles for the liberation of their land from the yoke of colonialism. They are today the faithful leaders of their people and sincerely devoted to the principles and values of justice and freedom.

I reverently salute the martyrs who have fallen at the hand of terrorism and terrorists, chief among those being my lifelong comrade, my deputy, Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, and the martyrs of the massacres which were inflicted on our people in many areas, towns, villages, and camps in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and in south Lebanon.

Mr Chairman, members, the situation in our Palestinian homeland can no longer be tolerated. The masses of our people, our heroes, are leading the way and holding high the torches of freedom. They die everyday so the occupiers will leave and so peace will be established in their free and independent homeland and in the entire region.

Therefore, the PNC has based its resolutions on a realistic understanding of the conditions of both the Palestinians and the Israelis. The goal of these resolutions is to establish an atmosphere of tolerance between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

The United Nations has a historic and singular obligation toward our people, their cause, and their rights. Over 40 years ago, the United Nations issued Resolution 181 setting up two states in Palestine, as I have mentioned—one to be an Arab Palestinian state and the other a Jewish state.

Today, despite the historic injustice that has been committed against our people, we still see that this resolution continues to provide international legitimacy to the right of the Arab Palestinian people to sovereignty and national independence.

Therefore, the acceleration of the peace process in the region requires additional efforts by all the parties concerned and by international powers, particularly the United States and the Soviet Union, both of which have a great responsibility toward the issue of peace in our region.

The United Nations, the permanent members of the UN Security Council, and all international groups and organizations have a vital and essential role to play at the current stage.

I hereby present the following Palestinian peace initiative in my capacity as the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, which assumes the tasks of the provisional government of the State of Palestine:

1. Serious work should be undertaken to convene the preparatory committee of an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the UN secretary general in accordance with the Gorbachev-Mitterrand initiative, which has been supported by many countries and which President Mitterrand thankfully presented to your Assembly at the end of last September, preparatory to convening an international conference, which is being supported by all the world countries with the exception of the Government of Israel;

2. Proceeding from our faith in the UN's vital role and international legitimacy, we believe the United Nations should assume temporary supervision of our Palestinian land; UN forces should be deployed to protect our people; and, at the same time, the UN forces should supervise the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from our country; and

3. The PLO will work to reach a comprehensive peaceful settlement between the sides involved in the Arab-Israeli struggle, including the State of Palestine and Israel, as well as the other neighboring states, within the framework of an international conference for peace in the Middle East to realize equality and a balance of interests, particularly the right of our people to freedom and national independence, and the respect of the right to live, and the right of peace and security to everyone; namely, all the sides involved in the struggle in the area in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338.

In the event these bases are recognized within the framework of such a conference, we would have made a principal stride toward a just solution, which would pave the way toward reaching an agreement over all the security and peace arrangements.

Mr Chairman, I hope it is clear that to the extent they are eager to attain their legitimate national rights to self-determination and their return and to secure the termination of the occupation of the Palestinian land of their homeland, our Palestinian people also are eager to

safeguard the peaceful process so as to achieve these goals within the framework of an international conference under UN auspices and in accordance with its charter and resolutions.

I stress that we are a people who yearn for peace like all the peoples on earth and, perhaps, more enthusiastically, because of our long endurance over the years; because of the harsh life that confronts our people and children; and because of their deprivation of an enjoyable, normal life without wars, tragedies, agonies, displacements, and harsh sufferings in their daily life.

Let the voices be raised in support of the olive branch, the policy of peaceful coexistence, and the climate of international relaxation. Let the hands unite in defense of an historical opportunity, which might not be repeated, to put an end to a long tragedy which has claimed the sacrifices of thousands of souls and resulted in the destruction of hundreds of cities and villages.

When we extend our hand with an olive branch and the peace branch, we do so because this branch stems from the tree of the homeland and freedom planted in our hearts.

Mr Chairman, members, I have come to you in the name of our people to extend my hand so we may establish the real, just peace.

It is from this premise that I call on the leaders of Israel to come here, to come here, under UN auspices to create this peace. I also tell them that our people want dignity, freedom, and peace. They want peace for their state the same as they want it for all the countries and parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

I hereby address greetings to all factions, forces, and sects of the Israelis led by the forces of democracy and peace.

I tell them: Move away from fear and intimidation so we can make peace, make peace, make peace; move away from the spectre of the wars of this conflict, which have been raging for 40 years, and away from the flare-up of coming wars, whose fuel would only be their children and our children.

Come, let us make peace. Come let us create peace—the peace of the brave—and move away from the arrogance of the strong and the weapons of destruction, and away from occupation, coercion, humiliation, killing, and torture.

Say: O people of the book, come to common terms to establish peace on the land of peace—the land of Palestine. Glory be to God in the heavens, peace on earth, and joy to the people. God, you are peace, peace is from you, and peace returns to you. Make us live in peace, O Lord, and admit us to paradise, the house of peace. [Koranic verses and biblical quote as heard]

Finally, I tell our people: The dawn is coming and victory is coming. I see the homeland represented in your sacred stones.

I see the flag of our independent Palestinian state flying over the hills of the dear homeland. Thanks and God's peace and blessing be with you.

'Arafat Postpones Geneva Press Conference

JN1412113488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The PLO has announced in Geneva that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has postponed until 1830 GMT today his press conference, which was scheduled to be held at 1000 GMT today.

PLO's Abu Sharif Denies U.S. Visit, Message

JN1312165588 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] London, 13 Dec (GNA)—A senior Palestinian official said today that contacts are underway to prepare for the proposed visit by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to France shortly.

Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to the PLO chief 'Arafat told GULF NEWS AGENCY that contacts between the French officials and the PLO leaders are still continuing in the regard following 'Arafat's address to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva.

Abu Sharif denied reports that U.S. State Secretary George Shultz has sent a message to the PLO leadership. He also denied he was to pay a visit to hold a meeting with officials in the U.S. State Department shortly.

He added that he was personaly ready to visit and to meet any U.S. officials to explain the recent resolutions adopted by the PNC meetings in Algiers.

He affirmed that the speech by Yasir 'Arafat in the U.N. will be "clear" and will receive support from many international community. [as received]

Abu Sharif predicted that a number of countries will recognize the new Palestinian state which he said will exceed one hundred in a very short time.

Meanwhile, the diplomatic reporter of the British GUARDIAN Newspaper quoted informed sources as saying that British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffry Howe will meet 'Arafat after his speech in Geneva.

British State Minister for Foreign Affairs William Waldegrave met with Abu Sharif last Friday. This was the first British—Palestinian meeting since five years.

Qaddumi on PNC Resolution, Stockholm Meeting

JN1312121888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Dec (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that during its recent session in Algiers, the PNC made no concessions, but it set the basis for an international conference in a manner that suits the international community and its demands to facilitate the convocation of an international conference for peace.

Qaddumi added that Jordan's step of disengaging legal and administrative ties with the West Bank has given us the option of applying Resolution 242 to the West Bank and Gaza Strip which were occupied in 1967.

He said: This is why the recent PNC resolution was based on Resolution 242 and the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, particularly the right to self-determination as a basis for holding an international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the PLO on an equal footing with other parties. At the same time, the PNC declared the establishment of a Palestinian state on the national soil.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, Qaddumi stressed that this is not a concession, but an affirmation of the Palestinian objective which we seek to achieve.

Regarding the recent meeting that was held in Stockholm between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation of U.S. Jews and the meetings which were held between Palestinian and progressive Jewish personalities in the past, Qaddumi said that all these contacts are within the framework of facilitating the convocation of an international conference. He expressed his confidence that the international community will exert pressures to hold this conference.

Qaddumi added that these meetings and contacts are the results of international pressure which urges some parties to abandon their intransigent stands.

He said: This, in itself, is a victory for the Palestinian policy which is proceeding in this direction to achieve a just solution to the Palestine question. This policy has won the entire world public opinion. The United States and Israel are now completely isolated from the world.

Qaddumi warned: However, we must be cautious and vigilant regarding all these contacts and we must have confidence in ourselves because we are ready to discuss our affairs with any concerned party.

He said: This is the sound course which does not offer concessions, because these meetings were held to explain our stands which were confirmed by the PNC. We must not hesitate to carry out such political activities to explain our stands in detail to anyone who wants to know and to call on all sides to contribute to creating an appropriate atmosphere for holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

Algeria

Polling Booths Set Up for 22 Dec Elections

LD1112112888 Algiers APS in English 1029 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers, 11/12/88 (APS)—37000 bureaus of vote were set up throughout the country in expectation of the poll of 22 December 1988 for the presidential elections according to the Home Ministry.

A program aimed at informing and making the population aware of the modalities of subscribing on the electoral lists was worked out with the Ministry of Information so as to uphold the mediatic [as received] action which precedes the presidential election.

Rescue Team, Aid Sent To Armenia Quake Areas

LD1112113088 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers, 11/12/88 (APS)—Following the earthquake which devastated Armenia (Soviet Union) Wednesday and whose toll is increasing, Algeria sent Saturday a team of rescuers and relief material in order to take part in research and relief operations in Armenia.

The team which left Algiers Saturday night includes 20 rescuers, 11 doctors and specialists in seismology. The material aid includes 400 tents, 3000 blankets and 15 tons of medicine which will be transported in the Air Force cargo planes.

Venezuelan President-elect Arrives in Algiers

LD1112231888 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] [Announcer] Carlos Andres Perez, president-elect of Venezuela, is in Algiers this evening. He was welcomed by Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah. The new Venezuelan president went soon after arrival to the Al-Mithaq residence for a first private meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid.

President Carlos Andres Perez came from Kuwait and Riyadh. His tour is aimed basically at assessing the state of the international oil market. In Riyadh and in Kuwait he proposed the convening of a summit of the 13 OPEC member countries to assess past experience and decide on the organization's future strategy.

In a statement on arrival this evening in Algiers, the Venezuelan president answered a question on the future of OPEC. Let us listen to him:

[Begin Perez recording in Spanish followed by French translation] I feel very optimistic over the future of OPEC. The Saudi and Kuwaiti monarchs showed determination and willingness to observe the accords concluded in Vienna, and to cooperate actively to ensure that these accords are also observed by the other countries. They also showed great understanding for the possiblity of a future summit meeting like the one we held in Algiers in 1975. Obviously, this is only an idea just launched for the OPEC member countries, and it should be examined by all the members of the organization. This is only an initiative for exploring the possibility. [end recording]

[Announcer] In his statement, the Venezuelan president all broached the issue of south-south relations and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said he is satisfied with the general context of international detente, and greeted the recent decisions of the PNC in Algiers for peace.

Makes Statement, Departs

LD1212113688 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Algiers, 12/12/88 (APS)—Venezuelan president, Carlos Andres Perez, left Algiers Monday after a short visit during which he conferred with President Chadli Bendjedid.

The Venezuelan president, who arrived Sunday here, made a statement to the press in which he dealt with the results of the latest OPEC meeting, the works of the south-south commission and the situation in the Middle East.

Concerning the first point, the Venezuelan president elect, who paid recently a visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, said he was optimistic concerning the future of OPEC. He added that the Saudi and Kuwaiti officials are determined to see the latest Vienna agreement respected.

The Venezuelan president elect also said that these same officials "were very receptive to a future summit meeting as the one held in Algiers in 1975".

Concerning the 4th meeting of the nonaligned countries south south commission which was held recently in Kuwait and which he attended, Carlos Andres Perez hoped to see this commission "mobilize again the south in favor of a new economic order".

To a question related to the evolution of the situation in the Middle East, the Venezuelan president elect answered that he had a great hope in a solution to the conflict in the area, mainly after the meeting of the Palestinian National Council held in Algiers.

Egypt

'Abd al-Majid Speaks at UN General Assembly

NC1412070088 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1536 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Speech by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, before the UN General Assembly meeting at the UN European headquarters in Geneva—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Chairman: I am very pleased to greet you again at this current session of the General Assembly

which is being held outside the main UN headquarters in New York to discuss one of the most important items on the agenda.

Mr Chairman, my remarks today come after the historic statement just delivered by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. On this occasion, I would like to offer special congratulations to his excellency on the courage, farsightedness, and pragmatism which are reflected in his statement today. These characteristics constitute great assets which will undoubtedly pave the way toward peace and justice in the Middle East.

Mr Chairman, our debate today comes at a significant historic turning point. The Palestinian issue is at an important juncture and we are meeting today in an unprecedented manner to discuss this matter, to give an impetus to the peace process, and to move toward the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Our resolutions here will affect the future of coming generations both within and outside the Middle East. The challenges facing us and, indeed, our responsibilities are great.

Undoubtedly, the decisive stand taken by the majority of countries regardless of their positions and attitudes is sincere proof of an understanding of these facts. It is at the same time an expression of these countries' conviction that the Palestinian stand, as set out in the documents issued by the extraordinary PNC session from 12 to 15 November 1988, represents an important historic development that deserves the support and backing of all truly peaceloving countries.

The PNC's decisive session coincided with the passage of almost 1 year since the start of the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories. With this uprising, the Palestinian people are demanding an end to the Israeli occupation and the opportunity to exercise their national and inalienable rights which have been approved by the UN Charter, the provisions of international law, and several UN General Assembly resolutions. This uprising has drawn the attention of world public opinion and has gained its sympathy for and appreciation of its causes and motives.

The uprising has continued despite the harsh Israeli repression and the daily and constant suffering of the sons of this people. This persistence by the Palestinian people is undoubtedly a clear proof that the Palestinian cry for freedom and independence will continue to be heard all over the world. This struggle by the Palestinian people will undoubtedly be crowned in the end with the attainment of what they are seeking and what they deserve.

The Palestinian people have made great sacrifices for many years and the time has come for them to obtain their rights.

The decision taken by His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan at the end of July 1988 to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank was in harmony with this concept and has strengthened it, thus making Israel face the need to deal with the facts of the situation.

Mr Chairman, the recent past has seen many meetings among the various Palestinian circles and groupings. They have discussed and studied the Palestinian people's demands and the uprising of their sons living under the occupation, in order to reach the appropriate decisions. Hence, the extraordinary PNC session was held. This session embodied the determination of the Palestinian people and their leaders to shoulder their responsibility wisely and courageously. A democratic and conscious exercise was carried out at the meetings and was crystallized by the pragmatic and reasonable trend that prevailed.

The PNC resolutions came at a time when the international atmosphere was propitious. They coincided with the emergence of positive indications and developments in many parts of the world beset by dangers of armed conflicts and tensions. We hope that the effects of this positive atmosphere will spread to include the Middle East too.

From this premise, I would like to underline the importance of the great step taken by the PLO through the three documents issued by the Algiers meeting to give an impetus to the peace efforts. They represent a substantial development in Palestinian thinking and in the attainment of a starting point for a Palestinian settlement, while taking into consideration all the regional and international circumstances and changes and their effects on the course of the conflict in the region. These are expressed by the following four factors:

1. The recognition of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 as the basis for holding an international conference for peace in the Middle East and a basis for according the Palestinian people their national legitimate rights.

2. The declaration of an independent Palestinian state within the framework of international legitimacy on the basis of General Assembly Resolution No 181, which partitioned Palestine into two states: one Arab and the other Jewish. The framework of this resolution provides the conditions for the international legitimacy that ensures the Palestinian Arab people's right to sovereignty and national independence.

3. The move from the establishment of a Palestinian state to confederation with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

4. The rejection of violence and renunciation of terrorism.

The Palestinian declaration was an affirmation of commitment to UN principles, particularly the settlement of problems by peaceful means, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to the principles of nonalignment. This deserves to be noted. These principles, in our opinion, represent a real achievement by the PNC. They also constitute, at the same time, an important basis for political activity in the coming period to strengthen efforts to achieve a just settlement acceptable to all the parties to the dispute.

I would like to affirm once again, and very clearly, that thereby the PNC has taken a realistic and practical course within the context of international legitimacy.

The Stockholm declaration was made with the same level of clarity and frankness. It reaffirmed the positive Palestinian commitment to the achievement of a just and final peaceful settlement of the problem.

Mr Chairman, while the Palestinian party—which is the principal party—in the ongoing Middle East dispute has defined its position clearly, meeting the world demand that UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 should be the basis for negotiations within the framework of an international conference for a comprehensive peaceful settlement, it should be underlined that the proclamation of the Palestinian state has included a recognition of the existence of the State of Israel. The Palestinians have made a decisive choice to engage in a peace process on the basis of UN General Assembly Resolution No 181 concerning the partition of Palestine, as well as the relevant UN Security Council resolutions which refer to the situation as it was on 5 June 1967.

This responsible stand by the PLO calls for a reciprocal response from other parties, particularly Israel. I call on Israel from this lectern to respond favorably to this positive Palestinian stand so that a just and comprehensive peace could be achieved, a peace which allows for the recognition of the State of Palestine as well as the State of Israel; a peace which allows for the respect of the Palestinian peoples' rights as well as the Israeli peoples' rights. International efforts must not be directed toward serving one party or endorsing the rights of that party. These efforts must be mobilized and resources marshalled to achieve a settlement according to the principles of justice and international law, so that ultimately justice may be obtained for all.

Mr Chairman, we therefore have to adopt decisions which conform to the rules of international legitimacy and to the principles and objectives stipulated by the UN Charter and recognized by the entire world community.

Mr Chairman, at this historic meeting, I would like to go further into a number of important points, and call things by their proper names. The international march toward a new era of international relations has started to move toward the establishment of relations marked by peace, understanding, and cooperation. The Middle East region is no exception to this rule. The Palestinian issue should not continue to represent the focal point of tension, dispute, and denial of basic rights.

The Palestinian declaration of independence stated that UN General Assembly Resolution No 181 for the year 1947 still provides the basis for an international legitimacy guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to national independence and sovereignty. This, in itself, is an acceptance of the idea of the partition of Palestine envisaged in that resolution. Moreover, the Palestinian acceptance of Resolution No 242 is, in fact, a recognition of Israel's right to exist within safe, recognized, and secure borders. It is also an acceptance of an end to the war, a recognition of the right of Israel, as well as the parties to the dispute, to enjoy sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence.

Nonetheless, and I repeat it, it must be clearly realized that this Palestinian acceptance is not a mere gift, or a price paid in return for nothing. Israel, for its part, has to present a simultaneous recognition of the Palestinian people's right to existence, self-determiantion, choice of structure, independence, and sovereignty, and of their right to live within safe, secure, and recognized borders.

Israel has the right to safeguard its security. However, this cannot be an absolute right. It is illogical, or rather a violation of the historic facts and basic principles of law and justice, to say that Israel's rights are above the rights of all the other parties to the dispute. Israel's rights must be parallel with others' rights and nothing more. It will never be possible to establish a just and lasting peace unless the rights and responsibilities are balanced.

Mr Chairman, on this same basis, we call on the international community, particularly the major permanent members of the UN Security Council, to take the responsibility of preserving international peace and security and to embark on official consultations to prepare for the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East. We also call on the UN Secretary General to lead these consultations as soon as possible.

Egypt and other countries have made numerous positive initiatives to establish peace in the Middle East. All these initiatives include positive elements worthy of support. What is important is that these elements should be implemented and, should result in activating a process leading to a just settlement. A just peace is one in which every party that has a right will obtain it, and it is a peace which preserves the interests of all the concerned parties in a balanced manner.

This requires the international community and UN bodies to promote the peace process in the Middle East in a manner similar to that which has recently prevailed in various regions which had been subject to extended periods of tension. The United Nations played a prominent role in establishing peace, security, and stability in

those regions. Consequently, we have the right to expect a similar commitment by the international community toward attaining peace in the Middle East.

Mr Chairman, the United Nations and the international parties that are concerned with a peaceful settlement and are able to exert a decisive influence on it should perform the following role: They should maintain direct communication with the two parties to the conflict, and they should seek to obtain a mutual and simultaneous recognition between them. This can be done by paving the way for negotiations and the attainment of a settlement. In this respect these parties can exploit the recent positive developments and the favorable regional and international atmosphere, so that an effective international conference for peace may be held under UN supervision.

The UN secretary general would call for this conference, which would be attended by the permanent UN Security Council members, and in which all the parties to the conflict, partiuclarly the PLO, the sole legitiamte representative of the Palestinian people, would participate on an equal footing. Such a conference is the framework which the vast majority of the members of the international community have accepted and supported with the aim of attaining peace in the region.

Mr Chairman, Egypt has been in the vanguard of the countries calling for peace and has taken it upon itself to urge all regional and international forums to support the Palestinian people's cause and enable them to exercise their legitiamte rights, notably their right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. Egypt has exerted numerous efforts over the years under the leadership of President Muhammd Husni Mubarak. The most recent of these efforts was the Al-'Aqabah summit meeting in October 1988, in which the Jordanian monarch and Yasir 'Arafat participated.

From the beginning, Egypt declared its support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and recognized this state at its birth. This formed part of Egypt's strategic commitment to pushing forward the efforts to establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East.

On this occasion, I would like to highlight what Yasir 'Arafat has just said in his comprehensive speech and to quote parts of his speech: The PLO will work to reach a comprehensive peaceful settlement between the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli struggle, including the States of Palestine and Israel, as well as the other neighboring states, within the framework of an international conference for peace in the Middle East, so that equality and a balance of interests may be attained, particularly the right of our people to freedom and national independence, and the respect for the right to live and for the right of peace and security for everyone, in accordance with Resolutions Nos 242 and 338.

Mr Chairman, we are now at a historic turning point. It is time for an active effort to solve this conflict on the part of all the parties concerned, regional and international. In this regard, Egypt stresses several important and basic factors. They are:

1. All international forces should urge Israel to respond to the historic Palestinian achievement and to accept the idea of mutual and simultaneous recognition between the State of Israel and the State of Palestine.

2. The parties concerned should start consultations among themselves within the framework of the Security Council to prepare for the stage of negotiations, which will be held directly through the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, and what accompanies them in terms of recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

3. It should be acknowledged that the goals of the settlement are defined by Israel's withdrawal from the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied since 1967, includinga the Syrian Golan Heights and Arab East Jerusalem; by the recognition of the right of all the peoples and states of the region, be they Arab states or Israel, to live in peace and within secure and recognized borders, free of threats and acts of violence; and by the provision to the Palestinian people of the opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination on their own land without external intervention.

Mr Chairman, the value of the wise Palestinian decisions that have been adopted and which represent serious and constructive steps toward peace reaffirms the need for this achievement to be met by the support and response it deserves on the part of the international community and all the direct and indirect parties to the conflict. In this way, this unique opportunity for peace, which might not recur in the near future, will not be lost.

The history of this dispute is full of similar opportunities that did not meet with a rational response, and were lost due to insistence on a narrow view of the situation. This prompts us to affirm the importance and need to utilize the positive factors and circumstances available to us now and to overcome any positions or obstacles that stand in the way of our achieving security and stability for the peoples of the states of the region. These peoples have endured a great deal over the last 40 years, which is the period that this long conflict has lasted for.

The peace challenge is the biggest challenge facing us today, as we stand on the threshhold of a delicate stage in this long conflict. Egypt is fully convinced that there are now genuine and realistic possibilities of embarking on serious negotiations. In this way we may end the period of pain and suffering endured by the Middle East region and the Palestinian people and open the door to new eras

in which the principles of peaceful coexistence, good neighborliness, and mutual cooperation would occupy first place among the states of the region.

Finally, on this premise, we think that all the states of the region and even the states of the entire world must seize this opportunity and accept the peace challenge to avoid a possible catastrophe, manifested in the continuation of the elements of tension and the seeds of instability. Thus we can all establish a firm basis for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in an area which was the cradle of civilizations and the three heavenly religions. God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

'Abd al-Majid Discusses Various Issues

On Israeli 'Invasion'

JN1112183288 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said U.S. President Reagan's announcement that he is ready to meet and hold negotiations with 'Arafat proves that the Palestine question is proceeding on its right path and that the wise, balanced Egyptian policy is yielding fruit.

Commenting on the armed Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: Unless all parties reach a just solution to the Palestine question and unless peace returns to Lebanon, Lebanon will remain a hotbed of anxiety and instability in the region.

PLO Stand, Visa Issue, Tabah

NC1012082788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Cairo, 10 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the resolutions taken by the PNC in Algiers last month and recent statements by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat as signifying a genuine change in the Palestinian way of thinking, and not merely a moderate stance.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Palestinian uprising has given the Palestinians a new impetus and has become the engine that is now driving the Palestinian cause. He added: The Palestinians have, for the first time, god rid of many complexities that governed their system in the past.

After 41 years, they have recognized, the UN resolution on partitioning Palestine—Resolution No 181 of 1947—which calls for the establishment of a Jewish state and an Arab state. They have also after 21 years, accepted Resolution No 242. He added that at the time the Israelis in fact rejected the borders set by the partition resolution because they gave them less teritory than they have at present, while the Palestinians are now declaring that they accept the 1967 borders.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: The new Palestinian state will enter into a confederation with Jordan. This is a political system agreed to by two or more countries to achieve common interests. It does not create a new state with an international character. He added that many of the points which have been demanded by the United States and Europe have in fact been fulfilled.

In the interview, Dr 'Abd al-Majid described the U.S. decision to reject Yasir 'Arafat's visa application as "unwise." He said that the decision contradicts the headquarters agreement of 1947 and is not in line with the standing of the United States as a major party to the peace process. In addition, 'Arafat did go to the United States in 1974 and spoken before the United Nations.

Regarding Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming speech to the General Assembly in Geneva, the Egyptian official said: I hope that in his speech Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will remove any ambiguity about the Algiers resolutions. The whole world is now listening to him and sympathizes with him in heart and mind. He stressed that the decision of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz not to grant 'Arafat a visa has awakened the whole world and caused a worldwide political earthquake. He added: If I were in Abu 'Ammar's place now, I would sent Mr Shultz a thank you cable and a bouquet of red flowers in appreciation of his having placed the Palestinian issue where it should belong; namely, in the limelight.

Regarding the issue of the handover of Tabah to Egypt in accordance with the ruling of the international arbitration panel, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said: The ruling of the arbitration panel on Tabah will be implemented within 60 days of the signing of the Rome agreement between the Egyptian and Israeli Governments in the presence of the U.S. representative. Representatives of the two governments will meet to solve the remaining problems.

He added that the joint Egyptian-Israeli committee will meet on Monday [12 December] at the multinational forces camp in the Al-Jawrah area, northern Sinai, to work out a timetable for completing the placement of the markers on the two countries' borders. They will also define the border line with Palestine under the [British] Mandate as far as the Mediterranean. The joint technical teams will complete the placement of the border markers in a period not exceeding 45 days; the task is to be accomplished by the end of January 1989.

Regarding the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran, he said: We have contacted the International Red Cross Committee through the Italian Government, which handles our interests in Iran. Sixteen Egyptian fishermen have returned through Italy's help after being held prisoner for 5 years. He added that the Egyptian prisoners will be returned together with the Iraqi ones.

State's Role in Human Rights

NC1012194988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that the national efforts to achieve stability and development cannot succeed unless human rights are respected. Likewise, 'Abd al-Majid added, just peace cannot be attained unless the right of nations to self-determination is respected.

This came in a speech which Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Azis Sayf al-Nasr read out today at a meeting of the Society of Human Rights Advocates.

In his speech, 'Abd al-Majid said that the past 40 years have witnessed numerous achievements concerning the protection of human rights. However, these achievements have been besmeared by several flagrant examples of abuses of human rights. Among these, he said, are Israel's abuse of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, its oppressive measures in the face of the Palestinian uprising, and its denial of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

'Abd al-Majid reviewed in his speech the outstanding role which Egypt had played in the preparation and formulation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and later conventions dealing with the same issue. He also made reference to Egypt's efforts to win support to the Palestinian cause and to enable Yasir 'Arafat to address the current UN General Assembly session. Egypt, he said, also has promulgated and put into force laws that protect the dignity and freedom of its own citizens.

On Palestinian Issue, Syria

NC1012215988 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described the recent PNC resolutions as truly historic decisions. He said that they have demonstrated the PLO's ability to adopt practical positions and noted that they have received international support.

This came in a statement Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to our radio correspondent during the NDP political club's meeting this evening. Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that Egypt has an honorable and consistent stance in support of the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He noted the importance of President Mubarak's recent meetings with Yasir 'Arafat and other Arab leaders, and the contributions such meetings are bound to make toward supporting the Palestinian issue.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid affirmed that the Arabs must move in a direction which will help to bring continuous gains to the Palestinian cause.

On the forthcoming UN General Assembly meeting in Geneva, his excellency remarked that Egypt expects that, in his statement to the UN General Assembly next Tuesday Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will consolidate the PNC's Algiers resolutions, which he confirmed in Stockholm. 'Abd al-Majid added that Egypt hopes that the Palestinian statement will meet with the approval of all countries so that the PNC resolutions may acquire an international character.

On Egyptian-Syrian relations, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid disclosed that efforts are being made to restore Egyptian-Syrian ties, particularly as the end of the media campaigns is contributing greatly to clearing the differences between them. His excellency expressed hope that all Arabs will have a united stand to bolster Arab solidarity.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid urged the new U.S. Government to attach great importance to the Middle East.

In conclusion, he stressed that Egypt's return to the Arab Economic Unity Council represents a solid step toward its return to the Arab League.

The NDP political club meeting was attended by Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly; Dr 'Atif Sdiqi, the prime minister; and Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister, minister of agriculture and secretary general of the NDP. Also present were the deputy prime minister, ministers, members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council, and leaders of political and popular action from various governorates.

Arab Relations, Tabah

JN1112212088 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Dec 88 p 3

[By 'Izzat al-Sa'dani]

[Text] While I was looking at the ceiling, dazzled and awed by the chandeliers and mirrors and overwhelmed by the vases of flowers which exhaled an aromatic aroma, the door opened and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, came in with a smile on his face. It was noon. We sat on two comfortable chairs in one of the corners of his office in the Foreign Ministry. I pictured him as d'Artagnan, one of the three musketeers who were made famous by the great French author Alexandre Dumas. D'Artagnan was the invincible swordsman, and the one who sat opposite me is the knight who never loses a diplomatic battle, the latest being the Tabah battle.

I started by asking him: Let me communicate to you the pulse of the Egyptian political circles whose blood pressure was raised to the danger point by the erroneous decision that Shultz has made, and behind him the U.S. Administration, which has bid farewell to political action. I told him: Let us pause before the implications of this decision, which has entered history through the widest door.

He said in concise and calculated words: We announced at the time that we regret this decision because it contradicts the headquarters agreement of 1947 and is not in line with the standing of the United States as a major party to the peace process. The decision to reject 'Arafat's visa is unwise. 'Arafat went to the United States in 1974 and spoke before the United Nations. At the time, I was head of the Arab group in the United Nations and I had arranged everything for 'Arafat.

But if we read the text of Shultz' statement we will know the reason.

I asked him: What did the U.S. statement rejecting the visa say?

He handed me a copy in English of Shultz' statement and said: There is a paragraph that claims that PLO elements are involved in terrorist operations against U.S. citizens and citizens of other nationalities and that PNC member Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], who was convicted by the Italian courts on the charges of killing a U.S. citizen on the "Achille Lauro," was present at the Algiers session.

I said: I read in the 30 November issue of the French paper LE MONDE a dispatch from its Washington correspondent saying that Shultz had contacted Dr 'Abd al-Majid and explained to him the U.S. stand rejecting the visa.

He said: This is true. Shultz contacted me to inform Egypt, which is a friendly country, about the reasons for the U.S. rejection. However, Shultz affirmed that the United States will participate in the deliberations that will take place in Geneva.

I said: There is an ambiguous point the Egyptian public wants you to clarify.

He said: Please say what this point is.

I said: During 'Arafat's first visit to Cairo, he came out of a meeting with you on 25 November following the issuance of the Algiers resolutions to say that he is going to the United Nations in New York and that President Mubarak had informed him at that moment that the United States had agreed to grant him a visa to go the United States. Many events then took place, and the U.S. State Department announced that no one had as yet granted 'Arafat an entry visa. Then Shultz came forth with his decision rejecting the visa. Where does the truth lie?

A confident smile spread over his face and he said: Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was sitting in your place here, and we discussed several political matters following the Algiers declaration. The presidency contacted me while I was speaking to Abu 'Ammar, informing me that it had received a dispatch from MENA in Tunis saying that a Palestinian official had announced that the U.S. Consulate in Tunis had granted 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States. I informed Abu 'Ammar about this; he immediately announced it to the press. He told them that the United States had granted him a visa. However, the United States denied this report in part and parcel in the afternoon. Shultz issued his statement rejecting the visa the next day.

I said: Shultz' decision has created a political earthquake wordwide. If I were Abu 'Ammar, I would have sent a thankyou cable and a bouquet of red roses to Shultz out of admiration and appreciation because he has placed the Palestine question in its rightful place in the limelight!

He said: A harmful thing may sometimes be useful, as Ibrahim Nafi' says in his column entitled "Quietly." Shultz' decision has awakened the whole world. Even the banner headlines of U.S. newspapers say: "'Arafat Elevated." [preceding word in English]

I said: Flora Lewis, a famous U.S. journalist who writes in the NEW YORK TIMES and HERALD TRIBUNE, has asked me to help her obtain the full English version of the texts, resolutions, and documents of the proclamation of the Palestinian state issued in Algiers on 15 November because she has not yet obtained them, even from the PLO members themselves.

He said: In order not to encounter linguistic errors which may be meaninglessly explained by international circles, I requested the PLO to present the Algiers conference documents to the whole world in Arabic so the world circles will translate them into their living languages. The U.S. Embassy here has received the Arabic versions of the Algiers declaration, including the independence, the political program, and the government-in-exile. Now, the whole world has known, understood, studied, analyzed, and placed under political microscopes all that came in these versions!

I said: Except for Israel. And, as Dr Edward Said, a professor at the U.S. Colombia University and a PNC member, said: "The Israelis were not enthusiastic about the Algiers news," the Israeli Government and people are extremely cautious regarding all that the PLO says and they carefully examine all PLO statements. Hence, if the PLO adopts a new stand seeking world acceptance of it as proof of moderation, the Israeli people will need further conviction that the precise details of such a stand do not imply a trick!

He said: In fact, and for the record, this has not only been a moderate stand but also a genuine change in the Palestinian way of thinking.

I did not interrupt 'Abd al-Majid; how could I interrupt a teacher while taking my first lesson in politics?

'Abd al-Majid continued: Palestinians fear and avoid getting closer to this new way of thinking. However, they have followed it after the uprising has given them a strong impetus and has become the engine that is now moving the

Palestine question on its right path. What concerns us regarding the Algiers resolutions is the political program: recognition of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, the latter completing the earlier, along with the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the renunciation of terrorism. Resolution 242 includes important positive aspects, including: 1) Approving the principle of withdrawal; 2) inadmissibility of occupying territories by force; 3) living in peace within secure borders; 4) settling outstanding problems by peaceful means.

The knight of speech and quiet diplomacy added: For the first time, Palestinians have eliminated many complexities that governed their system in the past. Now, 41 years later, they have recognized the 1947 UN Resolution No. 181 partitioning Palestine into a Jewish state and a Palestinian state. Israel cannot reject the resolution.

I said: This is because Israel came into being according to this resolution.

He said: Exactly. Thirty-three countries, including the United States and the USSR, voted for the resolution. Seven Arab states, including Egypt, voted against the resolution and Britain, as the mandatory power in Palestine, abstained.

Then I asked: But will Israel accept the 1947 borders?

He said: Actually, the Israelis rejected the partition resolution borders since it gives them less than they have now. How would they go along with curtailing their country's size? However, the Palestinians now say they will accept the 1967 borders. So, it took the Palestinians 41 years to accept Resolution No. 181 and 21 years to accept Resolution No. 242. It's better late than never.

I asked: And what about the declared Palestinian state?

He said: It will have a confederal relationship with Jordan—a political arrangement between two states with common interests. Many conditions required by the Untied States and Europe have now been met. The latter has, however, welcomed the Palestinian resolutions. The United States yesterday sprang a surprise on the world by Reagan saying he is prepared to negotiate with 'Arafat.

I asked: Seventy-seven countries, including Egypt, have recognized the new Palestinian state. Is there an Israeli warning to Egypt, as stated by some Israeli officials, as a result of Egypt's strong support for the Palestinian resolutions?

He said: No, no Israeli official has voiced any warning or even a blame.

I said: You met Abu 'Ammar twice in Cairo after the Algiers resolutions. What was the nature of your dialogue, and what will Abu 'Ammar say in 72 hours before the General Assembly during its historic session at the European headquarters in Geneva?

He said: We agreed on stressing Egypt's firm positions on the Palestine question. President Mubarak encourages and vigorously supports them. This helped create this favorable political situation. I hope that in his speech, Abu 'Ammar will remove any ambiguity in the Algiers resolutions, because the whole world is now listening to and sympathizes with him.

I asked: Will 'Arafat declare in Geneva the formation of a government-in-exile?

He said: All these issues have been postponed.

I said: What about the European role in the issue?

He said: It is a major role, especially that of the Mediterranean countries. France is playing a clear-cut role, and President Mitterrand's fingerprints are even clearer.

I said: What will you say in your speech after 'Arafat speeks?

He said: We will support the Palestinian resolutions.

As we sat in that ancient room with its ancient furniture, we saw much water pass in the Nile River. I did not look at my watch lest I quickly end the warm dialogue in which I received my first lesson in politics.

I said: When Egypt's diplomacy achieved victory over Tabah, you were in Washington, and 1988 was a good year for Egypt. When you returned, you saw anxiety in the face of the Egyptians, who asked: When will we regain Tabah?

He said, maintaining his intelligent quietness: Tabah is truly Egyptian, and in accordance with the verdict of the International Court of Justice. How can we teach people to be patient? Our diplomatic march to restore Tabah began in May 1985. I was the head of the Egyptian team to the Tabah negotiations. The verdict was issued on 29 September 1988, in our favor. This means that there were 4 years of patience, efforts, and hard work. Cannot we wait for only another 50 days?

I said: What will happen after 50 days?

He said: The day after tomorrow, Monday, on 12 December, the joint Egyptian-Israeli committee will hold a meeting at the multinational forces camp in the Al-Jawrak area, northern Sinai, to work out a timetable for completing the placement of the points on the two countries' borders. They will also define the border line with Palestine under the [British] mandate as far as the

Mediterranean. The joint technical teams will complete the placement of the new border points in a period not exceeding 45 days. The task will be accomplished by the end of January 1989.

I said: Does this mean that Tabah will be restored before the end of next January?

He said: We have a timetable. Along with Egypt and Israel, the United States signs every document and should participate in the withdrawal process by Egypt and Israel to the international borders.

He then opened a big file and placed maps of the border area between Egypt and Israel in front of me. He explained: You know that there are 14 disputed points. Egypt will get 10 dominated by Israel, and Israel will get 4 dominated by us. This is the verdict of the International Court of Justice on 29 September. He pointed to the maps, saying: The points to be taken by Israel are four. Point 46 is 2 square meters, point 56 is 3 square meters, point 15 is 16 square meters, and point 14 is 17 square meters. This means that 38 square meters will be taken by Israel.

I said: How many points will Egypt take?

He said: Be patient. Ten points, including Tabah, which is 1 square km. The court ruled out an Israeli proposal that the border line in Tabah be either near the Wadi al-Dawm or Sunasta [placenames as published]. In either case, the hotel would have been the share of Israel, but Egypt achieved victory.

I asked: Is this everything?

He answered: The maps in front of you show Ra's al-Naqab points—2 square km—and the rest of the 10 points that Egypt will obtain.

I asked: When?

He answered: You are like everyone, impatient. Within 60 days of the signing of the Rome agreement between the Egyptian and Israeli Governments, in the presence of a U.S. Government representative, the ruling of the arbitration ruling on Tabah will be implemented. Representatives of the two governments will meet to resolve the remaining problems.

I asked: Such as?

He said: The cost of the hotel, compensations, tourism, and visas.

I asked: Do you expect Israeli procrastination?

He said: I first assume that there are good intentions, but cautiously. However, we are prepared for any trouble.

I said: Allow me to say that I have read the story of your father, Muhammad Fahmi 'Abd al-Majid, who is nicknamed the hero of consolation. He built the Muwasah [Consolation] Hospital under extremely difficult conditions. There is a bust of him at its entrance. He suffered and anguished beyond human ability. I am here conveying to you the patience of Egyptian mothers who miss their husbands and sons who are held prisoner in Iran.

He said: We have not remained silent. We are holding contacts with the Red Cross through the Italian Government, which is handling our interests in Tehran. With the help of Italy, 16 fishermen returned to us after spending 5 years in captivity. I sent a message thanking Italian Foreign Minister Andreotti on this occasion. Anyway, the Egyptian prisoners will return together with the Iraqi prisoners. We asked Tehran through the Red Cross about the number of Egyptian prisoners they are holding, but they refused to answer. No one so far knows their exact number. We are following the matter. There are neither Arab nor Islamic mediations. The whole issue is linked to the political climate in Iran.

I asked: What about the international conference? Is there any hope?

He answered: The United States is now convinced of the need to convene an international conference to resolve the problems of the region. However, we have to wait for the new U.S. Administration and the formation of a new Israeli government. "A little patience rectifies everything."

I asked: What about the return of Egypt to the Arab League, or the return of the Arab League to Egypt? King Husayn has called on President Mubarak to attend the Arab summit when it is convened, and said that Mubarak will be warmly welcomed.

He said: There are currently no contacts in this respect. King Husayn's talk comes from a brother to President Mubarak. We welcome every step toward consolidating the Arab aim.

I asked: And what about Syria and Libya?

He answered: I think that the halt of the media campaigns is very encouraging. Opening Egyptian airspace for some Libyan planes is a good step for turning a new leaf. The president has stressed on many occasions that there are no problems between Egypt and either Syria or Libya.

I asked: What about King Husayn's decision on 21 July to disengage the Jordanian administration from the West Bank and Gaza?

He answered: The decision was made so that Palestine will be for the Palestinians, in action, not words.

I asked: What is the situation 1 year after the Palestinian uprising began?

He answered: The declaration of the Palestinian state is the legitimate father of the uprising, which we should invest and support.

I asked: What about 'Arafat's recognition of Israel in Stockholm?

He said: It is a good step forward.

I asked: What about the sitting of the first Muslim woman on the chair of prime minister of a major Islamic country?

He said: You mean Benazir Bhutto. Her father, God bless his soul, was a great man. She deserves from us all greetings and all support.

I said: Before collecting my papers and ideas, let me ask you: You lived 35 years in political work, starting with the negotiations on the evacuation from Egypt, in which you took part in 1954, and until the Tabah negotiations in 1985, which ended in a great diplomatic victory in 1988. What have you come up with?

He answered: Love of Egypt, adoration of Alexandria, and three children who are all my life.

I asked: What have you taught them?

He said: Patience at the time of tragedy, self-honesty, objectivity—though difficult—and, ultimately, only true things remain true.

I asked: When do you make a difficult decision?

He answered: Early in the morning.

I asked: What have you last read?

He answered: I am rediscovering Najib Mahfuz after he won the Nobel prize.

I shake the hand of my teacher and professor as he sees me off. I cordially ask him: After 48 hours you will fly to Geneva to witness the true birth of the Palestinian state and to talk in the name of Egypt. Are you optimistic about the current situation of the Arabs?

He said with breathtaking amity: It is cautious optimism.

I said to myself, without him hearing me, or perhaps with him overhearing me: This is my first lesson in diplomacy.

Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn Exchange Views

NC1312212388 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn telephoned President Husni Mubarak tonight, during which the two leaders exchanged views on current developments in the region and on the Arab and international situation.

Libya

JANA Editor Denies Mediations With Egypt

LD1312133888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Dec (JANA)—Some Arab and international media have reported a news item that was published by the Abu Dhabi based paper AL-ITTIHAD that said mediation took place during the visit of the brother leader to fraternal Tunisia regarding the restoration of Libyan-Egyptian relations.

JANA Arab affairs editor commented on this news item saying:

It matters to us here to affirm for the 1,000th time that such fabricated reports are untrue and that the meeting that brought the brother leader together with Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] was tantamount to a courtesy invitation to attend the dinner banquet held by brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in honor of the brother leader and that all the talks that took place during the banquet did not go beyond the issue of the Zionist [words indistinct].

These are the allegations that Yasir 'Arafat denied during this meeting in front of the assistants of the two leaders Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

JANA added that the Great Jamahiriyah does not, in reality, need mediations of any kind with Egypt simply because it has no political disputes with anybody, except that Egypt has relations with the Zionist enemy [words indistinct] and the Jamahiriyah [word indistinct] this situation, it is not possible for it to recognize Egypt or restore its relations with it even if this lasts for 1,000 years.

We would like also to clarify [words indistinct] that the Great Jamahiriyah did not ask permission for its aircraft to overfly Egyptian airspace because there was no need for them to overfly Egyptian airspace or use Egyptian airports, which have been desecrated by the Zionist presence.

We affirm that there is no Libyan air traffic over Egypt except for those [word indistinct] aircraft carrying the Libyan Arab pilgrims, which cannot dispense with the use of Egyptian airspace; these aircraft used to go, however through Sudanese and Syrian airspace.

To reaffirm the above, the Egyptian AL-MASA' stated on 10 December, following Egypt's successive statements on the matter of Libyan aircraft's air traffic that an investigation at a higher level was being carried with officials at the [Egyptian] Foreign Ministry and the [Egyptian] Civil Aviation Authority following their erroneous statements on the matter of the opening of Egyptian airspace for the Libyan aircraft.

JANA's Arab Affairs editor concluded his commentary stressing that the real action we seek is the opening of the land borders between Libya and Egypt within the framework of the Great Jamahiriyah's insistence to reopen unconditionally its borders with all fraternal Arab countries, a matter we think could end a problem facing Arab citizens in both Libya and Egypt: the problem of having to fly about 4,000 km over Malta and Greece to reach his destination [holy places in Saudi Arabia] in addition to the absurd affront he may face at these countries' airports at a time when he could have reached his destination through the easy use of his immediate borders.

Algerian Ministers Arrive for Visit

LD1312140788 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Brothers Sayed Ahmed Ghazali, Algerian minister of finance, Mohamed Taher Bouzghoub, minister of light industry, Mourad Medelsi, minister of commerce, and Badredine Nouiouia, governor of the Central Bank of fraternal Algeria, arrived in Tripoli yesterday morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Brother Sayed Ahmed Ghazali stressed in a statement to the JANA correspondent that his visit and the visit by the accompanying delegation falls within the framework of bolstering the unitary steps under way between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria. He expressed the hope that the steps already taken by the two countries will consolidate the constructive unitary endeavors prevailing in the Maghreb region in general and will be followed by more advanced steps.

The brother finance minister of fraternal Algeria expressed his desire as well as his colleagues' desire to meet with the brother officials of the General People's Committee to evaluate the state of the bilateral relations and then proceed to bolster and develop them in such a manner which will enable the sons of the one people in the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria to score more progress, stressing the need that meetings between the officials of the two fraternal countries should continue. Ghazali saluted, on his own behalf and on behalf of the members of the Algerian goverment who are accompanying him, the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and their historic leadership.

The proceedings of the preparatory committee preparing for the proceedings of the Higher Executive Committee, the Arab Libyan-Algerian Joint Committee, began in Tripoli yesterday. Three action groups to examine industrial, economic, and trade ventures, as well as a drafting committee, were formed during this meeting to review the agreements and minutes already signed between the two brotherly countries and the stages of their implementation. This meeting falls within the framework of the consolidation of the unionist steps between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Algeria.

Sudan

Pilot, MiG Handed Over to 'Outlaw Forces'

EA1312171088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Dec—The General Command of the Armed Forces has issued the following statement:

The General Command of the Sudanese People's Armed Forces wishes to announce that two MiG jets belonging to the Sudanese Air Force lost contact with the air base at Khartoum airport an hour after taking off for Juba. The two jets were piloted by instructors who were on a regular training mission after repair and maintenance operations.

Officials at Juba airport said the jets did not arrive at Juba airport at the appointed time. It is thought the jets made an emergency landing in the Equatoria Region.

Our sources report that one of the two jets made a safe emergency landing somewhere in Equatoria, whereupon the jet and its pilot were handed by citizens to outlaw forces in the area.

No information is available yet about the second jet. The Air Force is conducting an intensive search for the missing jet.

Agreement Signed on Return of Chadian Opposition

EA1312211288 Khartoum SUNA in English 1637 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum. 13 Dec—An agreement was signed here today on transporting to Chad the forces of Ibn 'Umar, one of the Chadian opposition leaders, which are currently stationed in the Wakhaim [placename as received] area Darfur Region, western Sudan.

Defence Minister Gen (Rtd) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil signed on behalf of Sudan while the Chadian interior minister, Ibrahim Mahamat Itno signed for Chad in the presence of Shaykh ibn 'Umar.

The agreement determined a period of seven days as from the date of signature for the accomplishment of the transportation.

The agreement also included an article stipulating the participation of an official Sudanese delegation in receiving these forces when arrive in Chad and that for manifesting Sudan's role in the (?process) of national reconciliation in Chad.

Gen (Rtd) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil delivered a message on this occasion affirming that Sudan with signing this agreement has practically shown to the world its good intentions towards Chad despite the Chadian statement in which it accused Sudan of facilitating the penetration of an anti-Chadian Government force into Chad.

The Ibn 'Umar forces entered Sudan last June and are currently stationed in the Wakhaim area, Darfur Region.

Government Urged To Issue Formal Statement on Pact
EA1312160988 Khartoum SUNA in English 1050 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13th Dec—Leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani has reiterated the necessity of endorsing [passage indistinct] Peoples Liberation Movement, SPLM, last month. Al-Mirghani urged Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in a message to be conveyed to him today, to hold an urgent meeting to declare a formal attitude on the peace agreement.

Meanwhile, the daily AL-SIYASAH reported today that Al-Mirghani had received yesterday a message from the leader of the SPLM, Colonel John Garang, expressing worry on the delay of issuing an official stance from the peace agreement.

SPLA Sending Teams Abroad To Explain Peace Moves
EA1312174488 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA today expressed concern about the failure of the government of Sadiq al-Mahdi to endorse the DUP-SPLA peace initiative. The spokesman says that the movement has waited now for 4 weeks for the cabinet and parliament to formally endorse the peace initiative.

The spokesman revealed that the movement was sending high-level delegations to all of Sudan's important international friends to explain the peace initiative and to urge them to bring the government of Sadiq al-Mahdi to its senses to formally endorse the peace initiative so that the peace process moves to the next stage.

The spokesman said the movement is very much encouraged by Sudan's international supporters with regard to the influence they can bring on Sadiq al-Mahdi to abandon war and to embrace the peace initiative.

Forces Kill 26 'Foreign Troops' in Darfur Region
EA1112175488 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Fierce battles were fought between the Armed Forces and some foreign troops infiltrating from the northern parts of Darfur Region between 1 and 8 December in the Kabkabiyah, Al-Junaynah town council, and Wadi Salih areas. The Armed Forces killed 26 and captured 11 of the foreign soldiers.

Our forces also captured large quantities of heavy equipment and many trucks. Dr (al-Tijani al-Sisi), the Darfur governor, said the soldiers probably belonged to the Chadian National Salvation Front. He said they were heavily armed and numbered about 300.

Bahrain

British State Minister for Defense Arrives

JN1012080688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0525 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 9 Dec (WAKH)—Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement, arrived in Manama tonight on a visit to Bahrain. He was received upon arrival by Staff Colonel Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim Bu'alay, assistant chief of state for logistics and supply; Staff Lieutenant Colonel Nabil Ibrahim Hasan Kamal, director of the Military Cooperation; and Allen Shepherd, the British ambassador to Bahrain.

Confers With Defense Minister

JN1012131688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1110 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 10 Dec (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, today met with Lord Trefgarne, British minister of state for defense procurement, who is now on a visit to Bahrain. They discussed bilateral relations and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Departs After Talks

JN1112113888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Manama, 11 Dec (WAKH)—Lord Trefgarne, minister of state for defense procurement, left Bahrain last night after a 2-day visit. He held discussions with Staff Major General Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, minister of defense and deputy commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force. Discussions focused on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

He was seen off by Colonel Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim Bu'alay, assistant chief of staff for supplies and provisions, and British Ambassador to Bahrain, Allen Shepherd.

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

JN1312210288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Geneva, 13 Dec (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has called on the United Nations to recognize the Palestinian state proclaimed on 15 November and grant it UN observer status. It also affirmed that this political step represents an international demand in light of successive international recognitions of the Palestinian state. Bahrain emphasized that this step has become more pressing since Jordan decided to sever its administrative and legal ties with the West Bank.

This came in a speech delivered by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign minister and chairman of the current session of the GCC Ministerial Council, this evening at the 43d UN General Assembly session, meeting in Geneva 13-15 December, on item No 37—pertaining to the Palestine question.

The Bahraini foreign minister announced that the Palestinian voice will be heard here from Geneva and no force will be able to muzzle voices uttering what is right. He said that the Palestinian opinion will reach every house, every individual, and the depths of the living consciences in this world. He announced that if they [not further identified] sought to shroud the voice of right, they will today witness the failure of this policy.

The minister added that the convening of the UN General Assembly session in Geneva instead of New York to discuss the Palestine question is proof of the international community's adherence to the United Nations' independence and neutrality and a confrontation of all pressures and attempts to belittle international charters and agreements.

The Bahraini foreign minister described the PNC resolutions, the political statement, and the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state on 15 November 1988 as the living embodiment of all factions of the the Palestinian people.

He said that the PNC's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, coupled with the right to self-determination as a basis for convening an international Middle East peace conference and the honest interest demonstrated in resolving this conflict peacefully, as reflected by this acceptance, give Israel two options, no more and no less: either just and comprehensive peace or a confrontation of the Palestinian resistance—increasing day by day.

The minister asserted that the United Nations will remain a captive of its historic and moral responsibility until a just and durable solution to this conflict is reached.

The Bahraini minister indicated that the PNC resolutions have nullified all the pretexts used by Israel and its allies in their rejection of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and in their failure to favorably respond to the peace efforts based on international legitimacy.

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah said that it is truly regrettable that Israel is currently taking a negative stand toward the PNC resolutions and continues to pursue its aggressive and terrorist policy. This strengthens our belief that Israel places no value on the voices calling for peace in the region.

The minister added that there is no stronger proof of this than its recent barbaric aggression against Lebanon whose borders, territory, territorial waters, and airspace have been customarily and repeatedly violated by Israel without being deterred by ethical or human values. [passage omitted]

The Bahraini foreign minister said: We were very surprised when the United States refused to grant Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO—which enjoys observer status at the United Nations—a visa to visit New York to participate in the debate on the Palestine question, particularly as there are legal obligations binding to the United States according to the headquarters agreement, and the latter is the host country and one of the founding states of the United Nations. It is one of the states that contributed effectively to the drafting of the UN Charter and many international conventions.

He said that this stand was found strange by the world, which voiced indignation because of the United States' stand in violation of the headquarters agreement. [passage omitted]

The minister also called for accelerating efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference with the involvement of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, which must participate in the conference on behalf of the Palestinian state on an equal footing and with the the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, considering that this conference is the way to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region and to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their national sovereignty in their independent state.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly

LD1312204788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1807 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Geneva, Dec 13 (KUNA)—Kuwait Tuesday called on the United Nations "not to let slip the historic possibility" of a solution to the question of Palestine because of "momentary narrow motives and restrictions"

In an address to the United Nations General Assembly session in Geneva, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah pointed out that "we are at crossroads".

"We hope that the U.S. will realise that it stands alone in its adherence to the Israeli concepts in sticking to the status quo and letting things stay as they are, which aim at undermining any prospects for a just peace in the Middle East region", he told the 2,000-odd delegates at the session.

"We still find that major powers in the world have persistently worked with Israel to obstruct the peace process.

"They have neglected their special role and responsibilities provided by the (United Nations) charter in solving international issues neutrally and impartially", he commented.

Kuwait lauded the "positive stance" of the European Community towards the declaration of the independent Palestinian state" and in spite of the inadequacy of that reserved position, we were, and still are, hoping that their welcome will be upgraded to the level of recognition", he said.

The right to life and to a dignified living was a sacred right of all peoples, "so let us work togther to preserve this right," Shaykh Sabah went on.

"The path to that end is already drawn and clear—it is the path of the international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations and with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members and all parties involved in the issue, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and held within the context contained in the political declaration of the Algiers meeting and reflected in all the relevant United Nations resolutions, including 242 and 338".

The minister went on to criticise the Administration in Washington for its "illegal action' in having "closed the doors on the chairman of the PLO".

Such an action was not only a violation of the host country agreement, but a contravention of the very democratic values and traditions in which it takes pride", the deputy premier pointed out.

The entire General Assembly had heard Chairman 'Arafat "offering a new endeavor towards peace" and reviewing the historic resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council, the most important of which was the establishing of the Palestinian state, Shaykh Sabah said.

"That establishment means the emergence of a new reality in international relations and balances.

"It was a step that represented victory for realism and maturity and a call for peace that seeks an exit from the whirlpool of destruction and bloodshed to the comfort of stability and peace."

"With its political program and realistic nature, Kuwait sees the PNC declaration of a Palestinian state as a strong weapon which will give the Palestinian uprising

and its masses a feeling that their precious sacrifices are not in vain and that they are producing results for the benefit of the Palestinian cause," the deputy premier went on.

The latest honourable page in the Palestinian struggle for their legitimate rights was the uprising, which a few days ago had entered its second year.

"It is a truly historic event which can by no means be reversed. The uprising could be considered a further step in man's struggle against coercion, despotism and occupation, as well as his unceasing determination to maintain his homeland, his integrity, his freedom and the restoration of his usurped rights."

The uprising had endured in the face of intimidation, the breaking of bones and of being buried alive, and was sending a message to Israel that the continuation of the occupation was impossible, Shaykh Sabah said.

"Kuwait calls on the international community to condemn the coercive Israeli policies and its repressive practices in the occupied Arab lands in violation of the basic human rights of the Palestinian people.

"The Israeli behaviour constitutes a flagrant violation of international laws and conventions, in particular the fourth Geneva convention of 1949 on the protection of civilians in time of war," the deputy premier said.

It was no secret that the iron-fist policies and terrorist acts of Israel were aimed at the progressive annexation of Palestinian land as well as other Arab lands in the Syrian Golan or in south Lebanon, he added.

The latest Israeli military operation in Lebanon constituted a flagrant violation of the independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon, but also (?was a) recent manifestation of the arrogance and intransigence of Israel."

Despite these Israeli acts, the uprising had managed to promote a [word indistinct] national sentiment and strengthen the concept of Palestinian unity, he observed, and this was a fact that had led to the rallying behind the PLO not only by the Palestinians but also by Arab countries and all peace-loving nations of the world.

The justness of the Palestinian cause and the establishment of the Palestinian state was a move characterised by flexibility, moderation and realism, he reiterated, and it was a move that rested on a solid foundation in international law.

"Kuwait registers its utmost appreciation for the countries that set out to recognise this state, and it appeals to all other countries to follow suit," the deputy premier and foreign minister said.

Defense Minister Receives PLO Officials

LD1412120388 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1122 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Dec KUNA—This morning Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, received in his office Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, member of the Fatah Movement Executive Committee; Deputy PNC Speaker Salim al-Za'nun and Fatah commissioner to Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf; and 'Awni Battash, director of the PLO office in Kuwait. Latest developments on the Palestinian and the Arab scenes were discussed.

PDRY

Reportage on Visit of CSSR Defense Minister

Arrives 9 Dec

EA0912203888 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] A Czechoslovak military delegation, led by Comrade Army General Eng Milan Vaclavik, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and CSSR minister of national defense, arrived in Aden at noon today for an official visit to Democratic Yemen that will last several days. It follows an invitation received from the command of our Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

On arrival, the comrade Czechoslovak defense minister made a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY expressing deep pleasure at visiting Democratic Yemen. He said that the visit answers the brother defense minister's visit to the Republc of Czechoslovakia last year. He wished the people of Democratic Yemen progress and every success.

He conveyed warm greetings from the people, party, and friendly government of Czechoslovakia to our Yemeni people and Armed Forces. He said that he will follow up the Prague talks between the Armed Forces of the two countries, with the aim of deepening friendship and mutual cooperation and exchanging views and experience in light of the friendship treaty signed between the two countries.

Visits Air Force Headquarters

EA1112210988 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Comrade General Milan Vaclavik, member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee and minister of national defense, accompanied by his delegation, visited the Air Force and Air Defense Command this morning. He was met by Brother Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the [YSP] Political Bureau, minister of defense and commander of the Air Force. On his arrival at the Air Force Command, Gen Vaclavic and his delegation were presented with a bouquet by the 'Ali Antar Vanguards.

The minister and his delegation noted the progress of battle and political training and methods of implementing training programs. The commander of the Air Forces gave him a detailed briefing on the development of the Air Force in recent years.

Comrade Milan Vaclavik also met the newly-graduated fighters and pilots trained in the friendly CSSR. He expressed satisfaction with the progress of our pilots in the short period following their training. He wished them success in serving the interests and causes of the Yemeni people. He also visited the Air Force and Air Defense College, where he was given a detailed briefing on stages of its development and its role in training military cadres.

During the visit, he expressed his appreciation and that of his delegation for the efforts of the Defense Ministry leadership and the command of the Air Force in establishing this study base. Gifts and souvenirs were exchanged between the delegation and fighters of the Air Force and Air Defense.

Confers With Counterpart

LD1112230288 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1900 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Army General Milan Vaclavik, Czechoslovak minister of national defense, has held talks with PDRY Defense Minister Salih Ahmad, on the scope and activities of the two countries' Armed Forces.

The two officials stressed the significance of developing mutual relations in the spheres of policy and economy, and in the military sphere to develop and safeguard their firm defensive capability.

Concludes Visit, Departs

EA1312212088 Aden ANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Aden, 13 Dec—The Czechoslovak military delegation led by Comrade General Milan Vaclavik, member of the Central Committee and minister of national defense, left Aden this morning after a visit of several days to our country, during which they discussed with a number of party and government leaders some issues of interest to the two friendly peoples and armies.

In a statement to ANA, Comrade Gen Milan Vaclavik said he was pleased and gratified by the generous hospitality accorded him and his delegation. He said his meeting with Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, had left a deep impression on him. [Words indistinct] and the deepening of friendship between the two friendly peoples and countries.

He said that during his visit he had had a number of meetings and talks with [words indistinct] and commanders of the Armed Forces, during which issues of common interest and the parameters and development of future relations between the two countries and peoples were discussed.

He added that during his stay he was given an opportunity to familiarize himself with the achievements of our Yemeni people and the (?combative) readiness [words indistinct] reached by the Armed Forces of Democratic Yemen. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit of Syrian President al-Asad

Arrives 13 Dec

LD1312144388 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpt] His Excellency Hafiz al-Asad of Syria arrived in Riyadh this afternoon. He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

Confers With King Fahd

JN1312185788 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Dec 88

['Abdallah al-Shihri dispatch from Riyadh]

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived here today on a surprise visit accompanied by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar. There will be three files to be discussed in addition to Egypt's return to the Arab League and bilateral relations.

The Lebanese file will occupy an important part of the Syrian-Saudi talks, especially with regard to electing a Lebanese president. Riyadh is of the view that hampering the election of the Lebanese president in practical terms means prolonging the Lebanese crisis until further notice.

Hence Saudi Arabia's endeavors to effect continuous contacts through diplomatic channels with Damascus, Washington, and the other capitals that have influence in Lebanon with the aim of hastening the election of a president, placing Lebanon on the path toward a solution, and restoring it to its natural position to enable it to stand on its own feet and deal with the crisis in the region instead of remaining in its present tragic situation.

The second file in the Fahd-Al-Asad talks will be developments in the Palestinian issue in light of the proclamation of the Palestinian state and the diplomatic successes that the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was capable of realizing on more than one level. Riyadh is trying to bring about reconciliation between the Syrian president

and the Palestinian leader by forgetting differences, respecting the Palestinian will and independent decisionmaking, and unifying Arab efforts to realize further gains.

The third file is entitled: Gulf developments after the Iraq-Iran cease-fire. Saudi Arabia and other GCC states believe that negotiations between Baghdad and Tehran should result in a definitive end to the war between the two neighbors, normalizing relations between them, and removing the specter of world military intervention in the Arabian Gulf region.

Finally, the Syrian-Saudi talks touched on Egypt's return to the Arab League due to the latter's importance and weight on the Arab and international levels. It's return enjoys the support of most Arab states—led by those of the GCC.

More on Talks With Fahd

JN1412061888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh—The talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, began at 2230 last night Damascus time.

Attending the talks on the Syrian side were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. Attending on the Saudi side were Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the Saudi National Guard; and Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, education minister and chief of the escort mission.

The talks dealt with current developments in the region and in the Arab arena.

Meets With Crown Prince

LD1412120188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0955 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Riyadh, 14 Dec (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, visited his brother, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, at Al-Dhiyafah Palace in Riyadh.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; the education minister and acting minister of higher education; the escorting minister, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir; and the adviser at the office of the crown prince, 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri.

Foreign Minister Addresses UN General Assembly
JN1312210988 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Geneva, Dec. 13 (INA)—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister stressed that Iraq would remain strongly committed to supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization, their sole and legitimate representative.

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly's debate on Palestine in session here today, Mr. 'Aziz added that Iraq has supported the decisions of the Palestine National Council and recognized the Palestinian state. Iraq has thus proceeded from its firm stand in backing the choice of the Palestinian people and their legitimate representatives and from its belief in the justice of their case.

Following is the full text of Mr. 'Aziz speech:

Mr President, the major developments recently witnessed in the struggle of the Palestinian people makes the discussion of the Palestinian issue in this particular circumstance, and here in Geneva, an historic occasion that is most important for the Palestinian question to take the prominence it deserves among international concerns.

This occasion is also important for determining the responsibilities and duties which should be shouldered by the international community on this question in consonance with objectives and principles of the United Nation's Charter if the injustice and deprivation suffered by the Palestinian people throughout the past decades are to be removed.

The most important of these developments has been the valiant uprising of the Arab people of Palestine and the historic decisions made on 15 November at the nineteenth extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, the session that appropriately carried the name of the uprising.

The uprising and the fact that it has continued courageously for more than a whole year now all over the occupied territories, undaunted by the violence and repression perpetrated by the occupation authorities, offers eloquent and tangible evidence of the vitality and vigor of the intrepid Palestinian people, their attachment to the land of Palestine and their unwavering resolve to achieve self-determination on that land.

It was upon this solid foundation, concretely clear as it is to the whole world, that the Palestine National Council made the decision to announce the independent Palestinian state. The announcement came in free, vigorous exercise of the right of self-determination, an exercise very much in line with international legitimacy as reflected in the resolutions adopted by the United Nations since 1947, confirming the right of the Palestinian people to self- determination, political independence and sovereignty over their homeland.

By announcing an independent Palestinian state, the Arab People of Palestine have reaffirmed the democratic foundations of their state, their love for peace and their commitment to peaceful co-existence. The Palestinian people declared their resolve to work for an independent state and for the achievement of a lasting peace based on justice and respect for people's rights. The Palestinian people have also called upon the United Nations, which has a special responsibility towards the Palestinian question, to help them achieve their legitimate objectives.

The Palestinian people have also reiterated their belief in settling regional and international problems peacefully and according to the UN Charter and UN Resolutions. They have has also asserted their rejection of threatened or actual use of force, violence or terrorism against the territorial integrity and political independence of countries, without prejudice to the natural right of self-defense.

In addition to announcing independence, the Palestine National Council included in its political statement a balanced working program for ensuring the arrangement of security and peace in the region.

Mr President, the entire world is obligated to view these decisions positively manner and to deal with them in earnest. It is most gratifying to note that a great number of states have welcomed and recongized these decisions. It is necessary to point out, at the same time, that those states which have hesitated so far to announce their support, should end their reluctance by declaring their support for the decisions of the Palestine National Council and their recognition of the new independent Palestinian state.

They should also come forward in clear support of the call for an international peace conference to be held with the full and equal participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization. In this context, we wish to say that, while we welcome the statement issued by the countries of the European Community on 21 November, we look forward to seeing these countries shake off whatever reluctance they may still have towards recongizing the independent Palestinian state and come forward in support of this state—the establishment of which constitutes a fundamental basis for achieving peace in the Middle East.

Some of the legal justifications that are used to justify non-recognition of the Palestinian state are clearly no longer part of the spirit of our age, nor are they in harmony with the realistic out-look necessary for the evolution of the provisions of international law as a living structure that would respond to the needs of the age, and not merely as rules which came about to meet the needs of times gone-by.

Mr President, recent developments have confirmed two essential facts. The first is the courage demonstrated by the Palestinian people throughout their decades of struggle. The struggle that has been crowned with their valiant uprising and their absolute resolve to reject occupation and to establish their own independent state.

The second fact relates to the ability of the leadership and legitimate representatives of their people to make courageous political decisions based on international legitimacy and on the legal rules and regulations that are the basis for international relations in our modern age.

The negative attitudes towards the Palestine Liberation Organization and towards the right of the Palestinian people to achieve self-determination and establish its independent state, adopted by certain countries in deference to the usurpers that have occupied the land, are neither based on justice nor legally or logically justified.

These attitudes emanate from inherent arrogance and from bias to the usurper that has occupied the land in violation of international legitimacy. These attitudes are also totally contrary to international law, the rules of justice and the relaities of our age.

Among these attitudes is the attitude adopted by the United States of America. By refusing to grant PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the USA, which would have enabled him to address the General Assebly in New York, the US Administration has not only explicitly violated the headquarter's agreement—recognized by the general assembly—but also adopted an arbitrary postion that is not based on logic and does not reflect readiness to understand the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people and peoples' right to self determination, a right considered to be the main characteristic of the modern age. This position is also seriously detrimental to the issue of peace, security, and justice in the region. The Iraqi Government, while deploring the U.S. position, salutes this Assembly on having taken the right decision to deplore it and to move its meetings to Geneva where it can hear Mr Yasir 'Arafat, the chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, deliver his speech.

It is also essential to refer to the position adopted by Britain, another permanent member of the Security Council, that has failed to share with the international community its legitimate and collective decision. Having been the biggest imperialist power to have controlled the area for a long time, Britain in particular remains historically responsible for the injustice suffered by the Arab people of Palestine and for many problems of the region.

Britain has yet to demonstrate clearly its willingness to forget its imperialist past and renounce its ambition for influence. Britain has continued to adopt negative and suspect stands on the Palestinian issue and on other issues in the region, stands that can in no way serve the questions of security, stability, or justice.

We must also point out that the position adopted by certain countries requiring the Palestinian people and its leadership to give one proof after another of their goodwill towards the issue of peace is totally unbalanced and one-sided because it fails to require the occupiers themselves to show respect for the will of the international community, international law and the UN resolution demanding an end to their occuption of the land.

The occupier should understand that his insistence on occupation and on denying the legitimate rights of the Palestinain people remains contrary to the course of history, and that such a position is always doomed to failure. The occupier should not underestimate the ability of the Palestinian people to continue their struggle to liberate their homeland, eliminate the occupation, and establish an independent state.

Nor should the occupier underestimate the determination of the Arab nation to stand by this legitimate struggle. The experience of decades of continued Palestinian struggle, continued Arab support for this struggle, and wide international solidarity, constitute tangible evidence of this fact.

Mr President, Iraq will remain strongly committed to supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole and legitimate representative. Iraq has supported the decision of the Palestinian National Council and recognized the decision of the Palestinian state.

Iraq has thus proceeded from its firm stand in support of the choice made by the Arab people of Palestine and their legitimate representatives and from its belief in the justice of the case of the Arab people of Palestine.

Now, following the decisions of the Palestine National Council, it has become imperative for the United Nations to shoulder its responsibilities towards the Charter which came to ensure security, peace and justice for all. It is time for this organization to make courageous decisions and take the stand needed for the process of peace in the region to be placed on the right track.

Military Source Denies Cease-Fire Violation

JN1312203488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] A military source has denied Iranian allegations that Iraqi forces violated the cease-fire Sunday in the Kushk al-Basri [name as heard] area. In a statement to INA tonight, the military source stressed that Iran is responsible for opening fire in this area after flooding it with water.

Commenting on an IRNA report, which quoted an Iranian military official as saying that two Iranian border guards were killed and four others injured in the Kushk al-Basri area Sunday, the source said that few months ago, the Iranian side flooded the area opposite of Iraqi positions south of Kushk al-Basri with water. The Iraqi side presented several complaints to the international observer team, which supported Iraq's right to reinforce the dams to prevent water from leaking into Iraqi positions.

The source added that the Iranian side violated the cease-fire on Sunday morning when it fired four RPG-7 rounds at Iraqi engineering units in the area. The Iraqi forces returned the fire. Firing between the two sides stopped after international observers were told of the incident.

The source added that the Iranian side resumed firing at noon the same day. It fired 17 cannon shells and 10 mortar shells at Iraqi engineering units. The Iraqi forces retaliated to this flagrant act of aggression, and firing ended after the international observers intervened. The source said that on the same day, an exchange of fire among Iranian positions 4 km inside the Iranian depth in the same area was noted.

Concluding the statement, the source stressed that the international observers supported the fact that the Iranian side began firing on the Iraqi positions. They also supported the fact that Iran violated the cease-fire by flooding no-man's land with water.

Reportage on Visit of French Foreign Minister

Arrives 11 Dec

JN1112074488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Baghdad this morning on a short visit to Iraq lasting 1 day as part of a Middle East tour.

In a statement to INA, the French foreign minister said that he will meet with a number of Iraqi officials to discuss a number of topics and issues that deserve to be discussed, foremost among which are the international situation and French-Iraqi relations. Dumas added that these talks will be held on a firm basis of friendship and strong bilateral cooperation. Dumas said that this is his first Middle East tour since he returned to head French diplomacy. He added that he wanted to begin this tour with a visit to Baghdad, the capital of a country that maintains a special friendship with France.

The French minister paid tribute to the existing bilateral relations and described them as strong relations of friendship. He added: We seek to upgrade these relations to levels [as received] to affirm to the Iraqis that Iraq can count on France; and this is the framework within which the visit revolves.

Dumas was welcomed at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Iraqi ambassador to France; the head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Holds News Conference

JN1112121888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas has described the French-Iraqi ties as ancient, very advanced, and distinctive.

At a news conference at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry today attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Dumas said: My visit to Iraq affirms the continuous development of relations between the two countries.

During his news conference—attended by press agency and newspaper reporters—Dumas said that France stood by Iraq in the war and was friendly with and sincere to Iraq after the cease-fire. He added that France will continue to help the UN secretary general push the peace negotiations forward without forgetting its special ties with Iraq.

Commenting on Dumas' remarks, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, emphasized the two countries determination to develop their relations and said that the two countries have reached a high degree of understanding and closeness of views on many major issues.

'Aziz voiced confidence that the two countries' firm relations, which have been continuing for many years and have overcome many circumstances, will continue to develop in the future. He said: Iraq, along with its sister Arab states, highly values France's stands toward the region's problems. We are very close to each other. He described his talks with Roland Dumas as extremely successful and useful and said that this description applies to all talks between French and Iraqi officials.

Attends 'Official' Talks

JN1112161088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] A round of official talks between Iraq and France has been held at the Foreign Ministry. The Iraqi side was headed by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the French side was headed by Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas.

The talks dealt with latest developments in the current negotiations between Iraq and Iran to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and reach a comprehensive and lasting solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict. The two sides stressed the special relations between Iraq and France.

The talks also centered on developments in the Palestine question in light of the results of the PNC session in Algiers. The two sides emphasized the importance of finding a solution to the Palestine question in order to achieve peace and security in the region and the world. They also stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent and free state.

The two sides also discussed the situation in Lebnanon and the threats to which it is being exposed due to foreign interference. They stressed the need to preserve Lebanon's unity and stability in support of the pillars of peace in the region.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by the two Foreign Ministry under secretaries, the head of the first international department, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Iraqi ambassador in Paris. They were attended on the French side by the members of the delegation accompanying Roland Dumas and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Confers With Sa'dun Hammadi

JN1112163488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Roland Dumas, French minister of foreign affairs, and his delegation today. They reviewed bilateral relations, which the French official described as good and advanced. They also expressed their countries' desire to promote spheres of joint cooperation to achieve their joint interests. The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Iraqi and French ambassadors to either country.

Discusses Bilateral Cooperation

JN1112191288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1842 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas, who conveyed to President Saddam French President Francois Mitterrand's greetings and strong desire to continue the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between France and Iraq.

President Saddam Husayn expressed appreciation for France's position toward Iraq during the 8-year Iranian aggression. His excellency also stressed Iraq's adherence to relations of friendship and cooperation with France and its eagerness to promote them in the future. He also voiced Iraq's appreciation for France's positions on the region's principal issues, especially the Palestine question.

During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the region, especially developments in the Palestine question following the historic Algiers resolutions, and the situation in Lebanon. The views of the two sides were close.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; the Iraqi and French ambassadors in Paris and Baghdad respectively; and the members of the delegation accompanying the French minister of foreign affairs.

Proposes Debt Rescheduling

LD1212092188 Paris Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] The French foreign minister's visit to Iraq ended with a French proposal to grant Baghdad authorities a rescheduling of the Iraqi debt on condition they gave proof of a clear intention to pay it off. Roland Dumas arrived in Cairo this morning where he is scheduled to meet the Egyptian president.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN1112211688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 11 Dec (INA)—French Foreign Affairs Minister Roland Dumas and his accompanying delegation left Baghdad this evening following a 1-day official visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

During his visit, the French minister held talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of state for foreign affairs. The talks dealt with means to strengthen and entrench the developing relations between Iraq and France; developments in the Arab region, particularly the Palestinian question; and international issues of concern to the two friendly countries.

The French minister was seen off at the airport by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Iraqi ambassador in Paris; and the French ambassador in Baghdad.

Prime Minister Shamir Comments on 'Arafat Speech
TA1312192488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1713 GMT 13 Dec 88

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in reaction to Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva, at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Shamir] Ladies and gentlemen: We are witnessing a deceitful PLO act of momentous proportions in Algiers, Stockholm, Strassbourg, and now in Geneva, aimed at misleading and creating the impression of growing moderation. At each of these events, particularly the convention of terrorist organizations in Algiers, the PLO reiterated its basic stand, the phrasing of which is altered each time, and which is a rejection of Israel's existence, the continuation of terrorism, and the encouragement of violent acts.

It is a well known fact that as far back as 1975 the United States promised Israel that it would not recognize the PLO and would not negotiate with it unless the PLO recognizes Israel's right to exist, accepts UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and renounces violence and terror. As far as we know the PLO did not accept these conditions. In his speech in Geneva, 'Arafat did not announce that he recognizes Israel's right of existence. He condemned terror, at the same time praising and encouraging what he termed the war of liberation.

In our view, the PLO is incapable of accepting the American conditions, which contradict the organization's very essence and its raison d'etre. I hope that for the sake of promoting the chance of peace and ending terror and violence, the United States will never form any official contacts with the PLO, since such a move will encourage extremists and violence and submerge the voices of those who are genuinely interested in promoting co-existence, negotiations, and peace between Israel and its neighbors.

Israel's policy is clear, and it is based on the guidelines of its governments since 1973. We have no conditions for negotiations or recognition of the PLO. From our point of view, the PLO is not a partner for any peace process. The PLO is a terrorist organization, or a group of terrorist organizations whose goal is to harm Israelis, undermine the existence of the State of Israel, and bring about its destruction.

Israel desires peace with all its might. We call again on our neighbors, including the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, and propose true negotiations between equals without preconditions, breaks, or diversions, until a peace settlement is reached. Anyone who truly desires peace will find us willing and faithful partners in an effort toward the supreme goal.

[Political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, do you not perceive a recognition of Israel in 'Arafat's appeal in Geneva to the Israeli leaders to launch peace negotiations? Do you not see an attempt on the part of Washington to make a move toward the PLO in this morning's report on coordination between Washington and that organization?

[Shamir] I see no recognition of Israel's right to exist in 'Arafat's speech. There is no explicit statement to that effect. There is what they call in English double talk, various formulations aimed at camouflage, and the alleged call on Israel to come to Geneva is in fact an invitation to Israel to come to an international conference, rather than direct negotiations with anyone.

[Ben-'Ami] Sir, what about the coordination between Washington and the PLO?

[Shamir] There are rumors to that effect. If such a thing has taken place, we condemn [sholelim] it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Shamir, in the series of political successes the PLO has recently achieved, do you see further support for your desire to establish a broad-based government with the Alignment?

[Shamir] There is no doubt that the PLO's political attack against Israel, which has been launched simultaneously with various acts of violence, requires that the country unite and join its forces to form a united front capable of confronting this wicked onslaught. From the point of view of Israel's internal political situation, this is another reason—an encouraging one—for establishing a unity government.

[Jerusalem Television political correspondent Yig'al Goren] Mr Prime Minister, you have said that what happened in Geneva today is a mirage and a deceitful act. Over 150 countries, however, have specially convened in 'Arafat's honor in Geneva and their representatives received 'Arafat with enthusiasm for the whole world to see. It is very possible that the United States, which is reported to be maintaining contacts with the PLO, will also accept the PLO's terms. How long will Israel be able to reiterate its stand saying that no change has occurred, when most of the world, perhaps almost all the world, said that the PLO has fulfilled the conditions for a dialogue?

[Shamir] As long as Israel believes that it is right, it will stand firm.

[Unidentified correspondent] Sir, in his speech today, Yasir 'Arafat explicitly mentioned Resolutions 242 and 338 and stated plainly that he renounces all forms of terrorism. He also said—I am quoting: Israel, like all the countries in the region, has a right to exist and to lead a life of peace and security. He ended by saying that this is a historical opportunity for peace among brave people. Do you accept this challenge?

[Shamir] Were things as you put them, if that was their intention, and if their announcer was not the head of the PLO, which is a terrorist organization, we would have

been obliged to consider a different stand. We know, however, who is making these pronouncements, we know their true content and what is hidden behind the words. We know that at the very moment the words are being said, the acts of violence continue; we know the real goal of the PLO, which has not changed. Therefore, we repeat that we are ready to enter negotiations with any Arab nation, including the Arabs of Eretz Yisra'el, but not with the PLO which pursues its way of terror and objects to the very existence of Israel.

[HA'ARETZ political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar] Prime Minister, in your opinion, how should Israel cope with the wave of applause which greeted 'Arafat's arrival and that large number of countries which recognized the Palestinian state and welcomed 'Arafat's speech?

[Shamir] We saw the same wave of applause in 1974 at the UN Assembly in New York. It has been 14 years since then, and the State of Israel has not changed its position. What we witnessed today is a repetition of the same performance.

[Jerusalem Television political correspondent Shlomo Ganor] Mr Prime Minister, Yasir 'Arafat called tonight for continued activities in the territories, for what is termed the intifada [uprising]. A terrorist event has already taken place tonight near Nabulus [the killing of a Jewish settler]. Will you review Israel's policy in the territories?

[Shamir] It should be constantly reviewed and reconsidered. Means should constantly be sought to improve the situation. What happened, however, is another illustration of the PLO's hostile circles' decision to pursue their violent activity.

[Ganor] Will you adopt a new policy to stop these events?

[Shamir] I did not mean a new policy. When a need for new measures arises, the IDF will take them.

Further on Shamir Reaction

TA1312195688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] In Jerusalem tonight Prime Minister Shamir rejected 'Arafat's statement. The prime minister told a news conference that he found nothing encouraging in 'Arafat's statement.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We are witnessing a monumental act of deception. In Algiers, Stockholm, Strasbourg, and now Geneva a mirage was created to deceive the international community by an illusion of moderation. However, in all his appearances, and in particular in the Algiers terrorist conference, the PLO chief repeats his basic position in different versions. Its simple meaning is the rejection of Israel's existence, the continuation of terrorism, and the encouragement of violence.

The United States has promised Israel that it will not recognize the PLO nor negotiate with it unless it recognizes Israel's right to exist, accepts UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and renounces terror and violence. It is our conviction that the PLO has not accepted these conditions. In his Geneva speech 'Arafat did not announce that he recognizes Israel's right to exist. He ostensibly renounced terror, but at the same time hailed what he calls his struggle of liberation.

We do not believe that the PLO is inherently capable of accepting the United States' conditions that contradict its very existence and raison d'etre. I hope that for the sake of promoting the chances of peace and advancing the struggle against terror and violence the United States will never establish any contacts with the PLO. Such a step will only encourage extremism and violence and suppress the voices of those who are really interested in coexistence, negotiations, and peace between Israel and its neighbors.

The Israeli policy is crystal clear. It is embedded in the basic guidelines of all its governments since 1973. We shall not negotiate with the PLO under any conditions nor recognize it. From our point of view, the PLO is no partner for any peace process. It is a terrorist organization aimed at undermining our national existence and bringing about the destruction of the State of Israel. The so-called Palestinian National Covenant bears witness to this. Israel is a peace-loving nation, yearning for peace with all its neighbors.

We repeat our invitation to all our neighbors, including the Palestinian Arabs, to join us for genuine, uninterrupted negotiations among equals with no preconditions until peace agreements are achieved. Whoever truly desires peace can find us ready as faithful partners for the attainment of this noble goal.

[Unidentified correspondent] The prime minister was asked if Israel is not being outmaneuvered by 'Arafat's statements. Did Israel not plan on taking the initiative?

[Shamir] I admit that what we are dealing with now is a contest in public relations, and of course we have no other way than to explain the real situation, the truth of the situation, and our positions.

[Correspondent] As for 'Arafat's renunciation of terrorism, Prime Minister Shamir called this double-talk.

[Shamir] We are used to hearing these words from 'Arafat that he doesn't accept terrorism, but at the same time we are witnessing a constant wave of terrorist acts.

[Correspondent] And Prime Minister Shamir said Israel could not accept the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territories.

[Shamir] In our view, the establishment of a Palestinian state will constitute a grave danger to our security, to the security of the State of Israel. [end recording]

More on Shamir, Peres Reactions

TA1312224788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Sources in the Prime Minister's Office have expressed satisfaction with the lukewarm U.S. reaction to 'Arafat's speech.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will comment on the speech during the Knesset debate tomorrow morning. In his speech, he will probably point to the positive—not only the negative—aspects of 'Arafat's speech. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

There were some in Jerusalem who emitted a long sigh of relief after 'Arafat's speech and the U.S. reaction, while others felt a certain confusion. In his news conference, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was quick to term the speech a deceitful act. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres decided to defer his official reaction until tomorrow's Knesset debate. Perhaps something can be learned from this delay, too. We learned that Peres intends to mark the positive, as well as the negative aspects of 'Arafat's remarks in Geneva.

There is no doubt that there was no room for the Americans' expectations from the speech. According to sources in Jerusalem, the Americans, who had maintained contacts with the PLO through the Swedish government, had been misled. 'Arafat was not ready, after all, to bestow full recognition on Israel, probably under the pressure of the PLO Executive Committee, which still widely supports the notorious plan aiming at Israel's removal by stages.

Experts in Jerusalem said that 'Arafat has for the first time fulfilled the U.S. condition of acknowledging UN Resolutions 242 and 338, and that he is undoubtedly introducing gradual changes into his formulations and drawing nearer to the other two conditions posed by the U.S. Administration—a recognition of Israel and renunciation of terrorism. The sources said that it is perhaps easier for 'Arafat to accept Resolution 242 if he counterposes a condition of his own: the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

One of the officials told us: We may be dealing too much with the three American conditions. The world is not familiar with 242 or 338, and the only part of the Geneva speech it will remember is 'Arafat urging Israel to make peace and waving a verbal olive branch. This is an impression with which it will be difficult to cope.

Peres Says Choice of Portfolio Depends on 'Arafat

TA1312161088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Report by Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Today's negotiation talks between the Likud and the Alignment lasted about 3 hours. The secret location today was Minister Moshe Arens' office in East Jerusalem. The Alignment ministers came out of the meeting in good spirits. It had been agreed that no one is to discuss the contents of the negotiations. [passage omitted]

No progress was made today on the issue of settlements. Both the Likud and the Alignment remained firm in their positions on this issue. Following Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's instruction, the Likud team members requested a Likud representation on the Histadrut executive committee.

In general, today's coalition talks were in the shadow of 'Arafat's speech in Geneva. Circles close to Shim'on Peres said that his decision on whether to choose the foreign affairs or the finance portfolio depends largely on 'Arafat's speech. If a turnabout occurs in the PLO position and the United States launches a dialogue with it, it is possible that in view of the prospects for a political breakthrough, Minister Peres will opt for the Foreign Ministry.

The Likud, too, is waiting for Peres' comments on 'Arafat's speech. Sources in the Likud believe that this will be the test of Peres' views and stands on the peace issue.

Tonight the Alignment ministers will meet in Jerusalem to hear a report on the coalition talks and to decide on the party's next moves. The Likud and Alignment negotiating teams will meet tomorrow. The location is again kept secret.

Peres To Comment on 'Arafat Speech 'Tomorrow'

TA1312201088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Talk in the studio between moderator Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and political correspondent Yig'al Goren following a report from Washington on reaction to 'Arafat's speech in Geneva—live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] What is going to be Israel's next move? Our political correspondent is in the studio. Good evening, Yig'al. We heard Prime Minister Shamir's reaction, and have just heard the reactions in the United States. Why is the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem not saying anything with regard to 'Arafat's speech?

[Goren] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres prefers to wait for the U.S. reaction before he formulates his own. He also prefers to analyze the speech together with the Foreign Ministry team of experts. He has decided that he will make a public comment at the Knesset tomorrow.

[Ahime'ir] Did Mr Peres and Mr Shamir coordinate their views on this issue?

[Goren] No, there was no coordination, although in general, all the reactions concerning the PLO and 'Arafat have been marked by coordination recently. In this instance, there has been no coordination. The Foreign Ministry team of experts, however, tonight expressed a view very similar to the U.S. reaction, namely that 'Arafat's remarks reflect progress on several points, but in general, not all three conditions have been fulfilled so far.

[Ahime'ir] What are Israel's expected moves?

[Goren] After hearing the U.S. unequivocal stand, Israel is in fact obliged to do nothing. It intends to continue its international public relations campaign in order to present views contrary to those of 'Arafat. After the U.S. announcement tonight, however, Israel does not have to do anything except hope that the United States and its new administration will not change their statement regarding the PLO.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you, Yig'al.

Peres: Bush To Send Kissinger on Mideast Mission

TA1412103988 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Dec 88 p 1

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Text] President-elect George Bush plans to send Dr Henry Kissinger to the Middle East to try to promote the regional peace process.

This was reported to the Alignment's ministerial forum yesterday by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Bush will enter office toward the end of January. It is assumed that former Secretary of State Kissinger will depart on his mission immediately thereafter.

The Alignment ministers were informed that the negotiations with Kissinger will be conducted by a "forum of four" on the Israeli side. It will include Prime Minister Shamir and Ministers Arens, Peres, and Rabin.

It is believed that the new U.S. Administration will try to use Kissinger's mission to pressure Israel into finding a political solution.

Rabin on 'Arafat Speech, Murders in Berakha

TA1412073388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, good morning.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Ro'e] With your permission, sir, I would like to begin with the tragic incident that occurred yesterday in the settlement of Berakha in Samaria. Have the precise circumstances in which the civilian and the soldier met their deaths been clarified? Were the murders committed against the background of a land dispute between neighbors, as the commander of the Central Command believes, or were they a terrorist act?

[Rabin] There is no doubt in my mind that even if the trigger for this confrontation was a problem related to land, the nationalist element was nonetheless very prominent here, simply because that after the killing of the settler, that Arab took the settler's rifle and opened fire at an Israeli military vehicle. As a result of that attack, an IDF soldier was killed. Thus, whatever the reason that led to the clash, the nature of this tragic incident—in which two Israelis were killed and the murderer also died—is nationalist in character.

[Savir] Sir, would you say that the IDF's deterrent capability has diminished? We have heard some settlers say that the locals no longer fear the Army.

[Rabin] I would not say that a change has occurred that makes it possible to conduct anti-IDF activity whenever the Army is present. Of course, there are stonings. Nowadays, however, whenever a soldier raises his gun, all those who attempt to clash with the Army flee. Nonetheless, one should remember that this is a wide-scale uprising involving civilian violence. It is conducted by large sections of the population. It is a far more difficult problem to deal with than terrorism as we have experienced it so far, which characterized the extremist Palestinians' fighting methods.

[Ro'e] Let us now move on to the other topic on which we requested your comments this morning: Yasir 'Arafat's speech in Geneva yesterday. Is it all black, as the prime minister termed it when he called it a monumental PLO deceit, or can you see some redeeming factors in it after all?

[Rabin] I do not doubt that the PLO is seeking formulations that are far more pleasing to the ears of many people in Western democracies. There is a measure of moderation in the style and the way the PLO's goals have been phrased. The speech must first of all be viewed within the U.S. prism. It was intended for the United States. As became evident today, although we knew about it even before, there were informal contacts through a third party between the PLO and the United States. The PLO tried to make declarations that would open the door to a political dialogue with the United States.

Together with Dr Kissinger back in 1975, I helped formulate the memorandum of understanding which was subsequently signed by Kissinger and the late Yig'al Allon. We tried then to force the United States—and

that memorandum of understanding was binding only on the United States—to accept wording that I never thought the PLO would be capable of adopting. The PLO has not lived up to the three conditions to which the United States—by virtue of this document, to which a later appendix was added—is committed, both regarding Israel and regarding Congress.

The first and central issue involves recognition of the right of the State of Israel to exist. I remember that many people were offended by Israel's presenting such a demand. The idea, however, was Kissinger's. He said that anyone who even merely toys with the notion of implementing the PLO's phased doctrine or plan cannot ideologically recognize Israel's right to exist. It conflicts with the fundamentals of the Palestinian Covenant. It was almost absolutely clear to me that the PLO would not be able to do that.

Second is the issue of terrorism. The PLO's attempt, repeated in the 1985 Cairo declaration, to draw a distinction between terrorism in Europe or the carrying out of terrorist attacks such as the one on the "Achille Lauro" on the one hand, and terrorism carried out from Lebanon or Israel's other borders against Israeli targets or from within the territories on the other, was clearly unacceptable to the United States.

The third thing 'Arafat tried to circumvent was Resolutions 242 and 338, which he mentioned without linking them to the right of self-determination by way of joining an international conference as a state. [sentence as heard] This, of course, was something the United States could not accept.

[Ro'e] If the PLO adopts the formulation desired by the United States, would you be prepared to regard it as a potential partner to negotiations on a future peace settlement in the Middle East?

[Rabin] Look, people have been asking me this question for more than 20 years: What if the PLO changes its entire approach and position? I am in favor of negotiations with Palestinians who are not enraptured by the Palestinian Covenant; who accept Resolutions 242 and 338 as the sole and exclusive basis for the solution of all components of the Arab-Israeli conflict; who renounce and refrain from terrorism in whatever form or manifestation, including violence in the territories; and who are prepared to negotiate with Israel. But by accepting these conditions, the PLO would cease to be the PLO.

At the same time, I support a dialogue with the inhabitants of the territories and a representation from among them, whether elected or not, in a bid to maintain talks. I regard the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as partners to a dialogue.

[Ro'e] But whether we like it or not, the political issue is once again the top item on our agenda. I would like to ask you whether, under the existing circumstances, it would not be better for the Labor Party to reconsider its policy of focusing on economic problems if Shim'on Peres is finance minister, meanwhile allowing the Likud—Shamir and Arens—to shape Israel's politics?

[Rabin] Look, when we talk about the fundamental political problems, the Cabinet will perform as one. It would thus be inconceivable for the Labor Party or its representatives in the Cabinet not to take part in raising ideas and initiatives on political issues. At the same time, one should bear in mind that for as long as we have no initiative from the outside, without involvement by the United States, at least, I cannot envision a political process—and let me remind you that all the moves in the 1970's following the Yom Kippur war came in the wake of initiatives; that there were agreements between Israel, Egypt, and Syria in the 1970's, while in the 1980's there have been none involving Israel and an Arab country. Perhaps right now there is also room to consider Soviet participation in such moves.

[Ro'e] Thank you, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Sharon Sees No Change in 'Arafat, PLO Position

TA1412082388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Yitzhaq Ro'e and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Savir] Good morning, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] Good morning.

[Savir] Do you see any breakthrough, however minute, in 'Arafat's speech yesterday? Do you see any sign of moderation in it or some phrasings that are closer to Israel's position?

[Sharon] I do not see any change in 'Arafat's address. I am surprised at the anticipation and tension that preceded his appearance. What tests should he still pass? After all, he was already tested in Qiryat Shemona; in the murder of children in Nahariyya, Avivim, and Ma'alot; in the killing of 'Ofra Moses and her son; in the death of Rami Haba; in the assassination of the mother and her three children in Jericho; and in yesterday's horrendous murder. What further tests should we pose him?

As he was speaking yesterday, the terrible murders were taking place in Har Berakha. These are additional atrocities that derive directly from the PLO's policy and instructions to the rioters in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. This man is personally involved in a long list of crimes and the indiscriminate murder of women and children, Jewish and others.

[Savir] We heard this morning that there was coordination with the United States, even if only informal. Is this cause for concern? Does this invite further pressure on Israel?

[Sharon] I believe that the fact that the United States participated at some level in the drafting of 'Arafat's speech constitutes a serious development. I believe we are facing a situation in which 'Arafat may certainly fulfill the U.S. terms. Even as late as yesterday a Jewish woman, Rita Hauser, issued an emotional call to 'Arafat which he may well heed. One cannot, after all, always count on the Arabs to make mistakes. We must adopt resolutions here.

In general, any ambiguous statement from Israel—as we have seen emanating from the Labor Party, which is so anxious to direct funds to faltering Histadrut institutions and help its ailing economic policy, but at the same time is not prepared to relinquish its say in the political process—some people in Labor ranks have already issued calls for a dialogue with the murderers. You should realize that Jewish statements, or declarations made all over the world, or remarks made by Israelis here, will ultimately pave the road to a U.S.-PLO dialogue, which certainly conflicts with all previous U.S. pledges.

[Ro'e] So as far as you are concerned, the PLO is totally unacceptable for any form of contact, no matter what 'Arafat says. But can you find any other Palestinians as possible partners to negotiations?

[Sharon] First of all, the PLO is unacceptable to me now and forever because by their crimes and professed policy, some enemies disqualify themselves from any form of negotiations. We saw such an example during World War II, when during the second phase of the war, Hitler tried to engage in a dialogue with the Allies. Even though this might have saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of troops who fell in the war, the Allies expressed their distinct opposition to talks with Hitler. They then pushed him into the Berlin bunker where he met his death.

This, however, has nothing to do with contacts or talks with Palestinians. Israel has always wanted to talk to all the Arab countries. We made peace with Egypt during Menahem Begin's term. Today, too, we are prepared to talk to Palestinians but....

[Savir, interrupting] The question is whether there are partners to such a dialogue.

[Sharon] Whether there are partners or not is primarily their problem. Once they realize that we are not prepared to talk to people whose hands are dripping with Jewish blood, with time we will find the partners to this dialogue. We are definitely prepared to talk to Palestinians, but not those who have Jewish blood smeared on their hands.

[Ro'e] After a year of the intifada [uprising], are there any Palestinians whose hands are clean of Jewish blood?

[Sharon] Yes, certainly, I am sure of that, despite the complete failure in handling the security issue. Only last week we heard for the nth time the soothing word that things are calming down. But we saw what happened in Jerusalem only this week; we saw what happened yesterday; we can see what is happening every day. Nevertheless, even though the handling of the security problem in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District has been a complete failure, there still are Palestinians with whom we can talk. It depends primarily on our ability to effect an absolute calm in Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza District, and Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. And we have that capability.

[Savir] Thank you very much, Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon.

[Sharon] Thank you.

JERUSALEM POST Editorial on 'Arafat Speech

TA1412121888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Peace Is More Than a Slogan"]

[Text] The address to the UN General Assembly's session on Palestine in which Yasir 'Arafat was expected to finally accept, without equivocation, the three American conditions for allowing the PLO to take part in the Middle East peace process, was not delivered.

To be sure, the PLO chairman did mount the podium in Geneva's Palace of Nations, and he did unburden himself of an oration on the blessings of Palestinian-Israel peace. When he concluded, Mr. 'Arafat was ecstatically applauded by the overwhelming majority of the UN delegations present. One delegation that sat on its hands was Israel's, which had watched the festivity on a television screen outside the hall. The head of the delegation, Ambassador Yohanan Bein, had clairvoyantly blasted the speech in advance as a mere exercise in theatrics.

A mere exercise in theatrics it was not. But neither did it amount to a fulfilment of Washington's conditions.

It may be quibbling to argue that readiness to accept Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for talks with Israel under the auspices of an international conference is not quite the same as accepting 242 and 338, period. But surely readiness to forge a secure peace with Israel under the auspices of an international conference is not the same as an express recognition of the Jewish state's legitimate existence. And the condemnation of terrorism is most certainly not the same as its renunciation, especially when the condemnation is coupled with an express approval of the Palestinian people's continuing "struggle for liberation."

There is no point in denying that this time 'Arafat repeatedly did use the kind of peace rhetoric that can be regarded as a kind of innovation, coming, as it did, from the PLO

chairman, speaking in Arabic at a major international forum. But he clearly failed to come through, again, unambiguously, and the negative verdict quickly passed on it by the State Department was inescapable. The verdict, in which President-elect George Bush immediately concurred, was, in effect, "guilty of insufficient clarity". 'Arafat's statement certainly also fell short of the predictions by his own close advisers who had committed him to "accept Israel within its 1967 borders."

The insufficiency may be linked to the PNC's announcement, in Algiers, of the birth of a Palestinian state. Now "provisional president" of that papier-mache polity, Chairman 'Arafat evidently believed he could claim for it perfect symmetry with the vibrant reality which Dr. Ralph Bunche, the UN's mediator in 1948, had already at that time recognized in Israel. Nimbly skipping a 40-year gap filled with Arab-initiated war, and Palestinian-made terror, the chairman arrogantly declined to be more specific than he was until Israel accepted "the full equality of the two parties to the conflict." In other words, the fleshing out of the insufficient pledges offered to Washington must await Israel's consent to the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state next to it, within, it may be assumed, the 1949 armistice borders.

Confronted with Washington's negative reaction, despite earlier reports that there had been some degree of coordination between them, the PLO chairman might still try to make amends in a press conference that has already been announced.

The insufficiency of Yasir 'Arafat's response was, however, the least of Premier Yitzhaq Shamir's worries about it. In an apparently pre-cooked comment, the leader of the Likud faulted the chairman for a "monumental show of fraudulent deception" designed to present the PLO, that inveterate seeker after Israel's destruction, as moderate and peace-seeking. To Mr. Shamir's mind, the PLO has not changed one bit in more than two decades. Its terrorist essence is ineradicable, and it will never ever be able to accept the American conditions and become a partner to peace negotiations.

But suppose the PLO, unnoticed by Mr. Shamir, were to continue its widely observed, tortuously slow progress towards acceptance of the American conditions, until it finally accepted them; what will Mr. Shamir say then? An entirely apt answer to this question was given by the exiled mayor of Al-Birah, 'Abdal Jawad Salih, in Amman yesterday: "Even if 'Arafat comes out and writes Shamir a letter saying, 'I recognize the State of Israel, I condemn terrorism, I stop terrorism.' Shamir will say, 'go to hell.'"

What truly disturbs the premier, and his party, is not the PLO's current failure to meet the U.S. conditions, but the fear that, one day, the terror organization may do so. For then even the party faithful may discover that the premier's smart disposal of the Jordanian option was not all that smart, and that it left the field open for the only other viable but far more repulsive option, the PLO's. And there's the rub. Even the U.S. may not forever fend for a Greater Israel by excluding the PLO, no matter how reformed it becomes, from the negotiating table. Internal defences against that dread eventuality must therefore promptly be erected.

In practical terms this means that the new national-unity government now being negotiated must readopt paragraph 13 of the 1984 basic policy guidelines, which stated, categorically: "Israel will not negotiate with the PLO." It would be interesting to watch the Alignment's reaction to this [preceding word in italics] demand from its putative coalition allies at this [preceding word in italics] time.

Jerusalem Arabic Views 'Uprising' Anniversary

JN1312160688 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 13 Dec 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] The so-called uprising entered its 2d year several days ago, and the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are continuing their uprising with the encouragement of the various Arab capitals. The leaders of the organizations and Arab countries have tried and are continuing to try to persuade the Palestinians that the uprising is a sound method and magic wand for solving their problem and achieving their little and big aspirations and dreams.

It is certain that concerned Palestinians are thinking, but what is essential is the quality and soundness of their thoughts and whether they come from a clear vision, depending on objective realities and factors, or rely on delusions, dreams, and illusions.

It is no use to conduct a detailed study of the high price the Palestinians have paid for the uprising. The essential question to be faced in any objective assessment is: What have the Palestinians gained from the uprising in return for the high price they have paid? Is the uprising a goal in itself, or is it a way to achieve a specific goal?

If the aim is to solve the Palestinian problem, we can ask the following essential and more important question: Has a full year of uprising brought about a solution or contributed to bringing a solution to the Palestinian problem closer? Several days ago, an answer was provided by the Strategic and International Studies Center, a liberal think tank that enjoys large-scale respect for its objective and important studies. The answer says that the uprising has changed the world's view on the Arab-Israeli dispute but has not brought peace even 1 inch closer.

Alignment 'Doves' See PLO Move as 'Significant'

TA1112165788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] A group of Alignment doves tonight published a statement viewing the Algiers resolutions and 'Arafat's declarations as a significant move. Our correspondent

Razi Barqay reports that the meeting was attended by some 20 people, including 10 Knesset members. Among the participants were Lova [Arye] Eli'av, Ora Namir, Hayim Ramon, Yosi Beilin, and Avraham Burg.

The statement contends that the recent developments in the PLO have brought closer the possibility of negotiations between that organization and Israel. The statement says, however, that the PLO must renounce terror before negotiations can be launched.

Our correspondent notes that this stand is contrary to that of Labor Party leaders Peres and Rabin, who maintain that the Algiers resolutions and 'Arafat's declarations in Stockholm do not alter the fact that the PLO is not a fit interlocutor.

2 Arab Knesset Members Meet 'Arafat in Geneva

TA1412104188 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Dec 88 p 21

[Report by Edwin Eytan]

[Text] Two Arab Knesset Members [MK's], Muhammad Mi'ari and 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah, met yesterday with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

The two MK's arrived in Geneva specially to brief the PLO chief on the political situation and the coalition negotiations, and to update him on the general moods in Israel. The two also showed up at the reception 'Arafat held in honor of representatives of Arab countries who participated in the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

Greece Rejects Protest on Release of 'Terrorist'

TA1312202588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Greece rejected an Israeli protest over its release last week of the Palestinian terrorist Usamah al-Zumar. Israel's diplomatic representative in Athens was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told that the protest did not help Greek-Israeli relations, a government spokesman said. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Ambassador on Bilateral Ties, Peace

JN1212140388 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Interview with Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador to Israel, by Jerusalem Radio correspondent Shafiq Mansur; date and place not given—Basyuni's answers are recorded]

[Text] [Mansur] Egyptian ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni has affirmed that Israeli-Egyptian relations are heading in the right direction. He said Egypt has a basic role in the Arab world. Basyuni spoke to the "With the Midday Events" program on several topics and said:

[Basyuni] The roots of Arab Egypt are firm and genuine. Egypt has never abandoned the Palestine question and its pan-Arab commitments. As I told you, our roots are entrenched, strong, and firm. History will always prove the soundness of the Egyptian political position. That is exactly what we are observing. Today, all the Arab states have decided in the last summit conference to solve the Palestinian question and the Middle East issue through holding the international peace conference. As you know, Egypt has adopted this position for a long time. Hence, Arab efforts are now unified to find a just solution to the Palestine question by holding the international peace confence.

[Mansur] I asked Basyuni about his opinion on the U.S. decision to prevent Yasir 'Arafat from traveling to New York, UN sessions in Geneva, and the peace prospects. He said:

[Basyuni] Let us look at the future. God willing, the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly will be convened in Geneva and 'Arafat will deliver his speech there on Tuesday, God willing. He will prove to the whole world that he is a peace-loving man who really wants peace. He is not maneuvering, but he wants to achieve just and comprehensive peace and to solve the Palestine question peacefully.

[Mansur] On Egyptian-Israeli relations, normalizing them correctly, and the various problems which obstruct these relations, the Egyptian ambassador to Israel said:

[Basyuni] I cannot use the term normalization of relations between two countries which have concluded peace. We signed a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Praised be God, the relations are proceeding normally. But do not expect after 34 years of war things will automatically become normal overnight. This process needs time. I observe that relations between Egypt and Israel are proceeding normally. But as you know, from time to time, problems arise and I consider such things natural between two neighboring countries which have concluded peace. It is normal for problems to arise between nations even if they have concluded peace.

[Mansur] My last question to Basyuni is: How far have relations reached between Egypt and Israel regarding the Tabah problem? He said:

[Basyuni] There are no negotiations, because the Tabah subject was referred to arbitration and the court issued its ruling acknowledging Egypt's sovereignty over this area. All that is now taking place are implementation procedures to carry out the arbitration decision on Tabah.

Liaison Team Discusses Tabah Borders With Egypt

TA1212204488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Israeli and Egyptian liaison teams have met in north Sinai to discuss details relating to the Tabah arbitration decision. An Egyptian representative said

that the teams discussed the setting up of new border markers along the border according to the arbitration decision. He said the meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere and added that there will soon be additional discussions on this issue.

Lahd's Condition Shows 'Gradual Improvement'

TA0812203988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] A gradual improvement has been reported in the condition of General Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, who has been treated at Haifa Rambam Hospital since the attempt on his life about 1 month ago.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports, however, that despite the improvement, the general's condition remains serious. From time to time he is hooked up to a respirator.

SLA Soldier Wounded by 'Terrorist' Gunfire

TA1312133288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was wounded at dawn today by terrorists who directed gunfire at an SLA position near the security zone border. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the SLA unit returned mortar and artillery fire in the direction of the gunfire.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Settler, Soldier, Arab Killed

TA1312202088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] It has just been announced that a resident of Berakha near Nabulus and an IDF soldier were killed this afternoon. An Arab murdered the settler, snatched his weapon, and killed a soldier who was driving by in a military vehicle. The Arab was killed by shots fired by the soldiers in the vehicle. The families of the soldier and the settler have been informed. Two other soldiers were slightly wounded. The security forces have begun to investigate the incident.

House of Killer Destroyed

TA1412112188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The security forces have demolished the house of the Burin inhabitant who killed Ya'aqov Parag and reserve soldier Arthur Hershtig yesterday. The above was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe. The assassin's brother has been detained for some time now. His trial is currently in progress in the Nabulus military court. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the man is suspected of possessing weapons, extending aid to a terrorist, and vandalizing agricultural equipment.

3 Golan Druze Wounded by Mine

TA1312163588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Three Druze were wounded this afternoon near Har Odem in the northern Golan Heights from an explosion of an anti-vehicle mine. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that one of the wounded men, whose condition is critical, was flown by helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The condition of the two others was defined as medium and slight. They were transferred to the Zefat Hospital.

Our correspondent has learned from the police that the case apparently involves an old mine.

Bus Firebombed in E. Jerusalem

TA1312163688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was hurled a short while ago at an Egged bus driving along Shu'fat Road north of Jerusalem. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum notes that several stone-throwing incidents and many gatherings of people in East Jerusalem took place throughout the day.

3 Arabs Wounded in Riots

TA1312203188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Three Arab residents were wounded today as the IDF dispersed riots in Ramallah, Nabulus, and the Tulkarm refugee camp. The IDF conducted initiated activity in several Judaea and Samaria villages.

In East Jerusalem, several instances of demonstrations and stone throwing occurred during the day. Arabic Television correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Israel Police dispersed demonstrations of students in East Jerusalem with tear gas. Some of the girls were hurt. They were transferred to a hospital where they received medical treatment. [passage omitted]

Disturbances took place also in the 'Anata refugee camp near Jerusalem.

A general curfew remained in force in the Gaza Strip and telephone lines were disconnected.

Delegation 'Appalled' at Damage to Arab Education
TA1212174988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] We are appalled at the damage caused to the Arab educational system in the occupied territories. This is the conclusion reached by the delegation of the World Confederation of Teachers following a week's visit, which included tours of schools, and inspection of the educational system in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The World Confederation of Teachers controls over 11 million teachers in some 160 countries. In the wake of the intifada [uprising], the confederation, in coordination with the Israeli Teachers Union, decided to send a 4-member delegation to examine the condition of the education in the territories.

In the course of their visit the delegates met with Arab notables, including the mayor of Jericho and the editor of AL-NAHAR. They visited Arab schools in East Jerusalem, Hebron, and Gaza, and met with Brigadier General Amnon Strassnoff, the military advocate general.

The Israeli Teachers Union cooperated with the delegation throughout the visit. Union Secretary General Yitzhaq Weber has declared that the union wishes to establish positive relations with Palestinian teachers, and will assist in the rehabilitation of the educational institutions in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip on the one condition that the students are not used against Israel.

Jordan To Allow Transit of Gaza Strip Produce
TA1312141588 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] Gaza—Representatives of the Gaza Strip Charitable Society held intensive talks with Jordanian Minister of Agriculture Marwan al-Humud and Dr Ahmad al-Qatnani, director general of the Palestinian affairs department at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, about the export of citrus fruit from the Gaza Strip via Jordan to the Arab states. Jordan reaffirmed its unequivocal support for the Gaza Strip by agreeing to allow the export of the Strip's citrus to Arab states as of 15 December 1988.

As for the local Jordanian market's requirement for the Strip's citrus fruit, contacts will resume between the Charitable Society and the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture whenever the need arises.

Trade Deficit Widens 'Dramatically' in Oct, Nov
TA0912121888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Dec 88 p

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Israel's trade deficit widened dramatically in October and November, trade figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed.

The bureau said that the average monthly gap between imports and exports for the two months was 63 percent wider than in the previous two months. The deficit for November alone came to $243 million.

The bureau said the latest statistics may indicate a trend towards a wider deficit, which had been going down since October 1987. The statistics bureau noted, however, that despite the recent increase, the deficit for the first 11 months of the year was still 8 percent below its level for the same period last year. The cumulative excess of imports over exports since the beginning of 1988 totalled $2.8 billion.

Observers said part of the deterioration in the trade balance was brought about by the fears of devaluation of the shekel in October and November. Importers sped up their purchases abroad, while exporters delayed sales. The figures showed that the average level of imports for the last two months was 13 percent higher than in the previous two months, while average monthly exports went down 3 percent during the same period.

But the bureau also pointed out that there was a discernable downward trend in exports, which could be traced back to February. Nevertheless, cumulative exports for the first eleven months of the year were still 16 percent larger than in January-November 1987. Exports since the beginning of 1988 totalled $8.2 billion.

Imports of goods totalled $1b. last month, bringing the total to $11.4b. in the first eleven months of the year, a rise of 8.9 percent over the same period last year.

The bureau figures showed that the monthly average imports of consumer goods in October and November were 17 percent higher compared with August and September. This included a 31 percent rise in the import of durable goods. Imports of production inputs averaged $490m. in the last two months, a rise of 19 percent. The imports of investment goods averaged $176 m. in October and November, a rise of 9 percent from August and September.

The bureau said exports of industrial goods in the last two months were 2 percent higher than in August and September. Overseas sales of electronics and machinery totalled $2.4b. since the beginning of the year, a rise of 15.4 percent over the same period last year.

The exports of polished diamonds totalled $2.4b. since the beginning of 1988, a rise of almost 26 percent.

Tourism Drops 22 Percent in November
TA1212071088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Text] Tourism continues to decline. The number of tourists who arrived in Israel in November dropped by 22 percent, compared to the same month a year ago. From the beginning of the year, tourism is down by 14 percent.

King Husayn Congratulates 'Arafat on UN Speech

JN1312183588 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has congratulated PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on his speech before the UN General Assembly in Geneva this afternoon.

In a telephone conversation with 'Arafat in his place of residence in Geneva, his majesty stressed Jordan's support for the PLO's stands, for its efforts to achieve the Palestinian people's aspirations, and for its eagerness to end the Israeli occupation and exercise the people's right to self-determination and establishment of their independent state on their national soil.

Says Speech 'Met All Conditions'

JN1412073288 Amman Domestic Service in English 0530 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] His majesty the king said in Paris yesterday that the PLO Chairman Mr. Yasir 'Arafat's speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva had met all conditions posed by the United States through his acceptance of an international peace conference based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. His majesty was speaking in an interview on French Television Channel 2 in comments following Washington's passive response to Mr 'Arafat's speech.

Earlier in Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said Mr 'Arafat's UN speech did not meet American conditions for a dialogue with the PLO.

His majesty said that Mr 'Arafat had responded to every demand of the United States and that his majesty knew what was expected of the PLO, adding that he previously interfered with the United States in favor of the PLO.

Earlier after talks with the French President Francois Mitterrand, his majesty said he was personally optimistic about a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Foreign Minister al-Masri Speaks at UN Session

JN1412093688 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Dec 88 p 15

["Text" of Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri's speech before the UN General Assembly at the UN European headquarters in Geneva on 13 December]

[Excerpts] Mr Chairman, I would like at first to express thanks and appreciation to the General Assembly presidency and the General Secretariat for the speed and cooperation they used in dealing with the subject of transferring the debate of the General Assembly's 43d session on the Palestine question from the UN Headquarters in New York to Geneva.

I would also like to point out the significance of the stand taken by his excellency the chairman of the General Assembly and his excellency the secretary general of the United Nations as expressed in their statements concerning the U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, to attend the General Assembly debate on the Palestine question in New York, as well as the UN legal advisor's statement in this respect.

I must not forget to express our appreciation for the stand of the international community in unanimously rejecting this violation of the headquarters agreement by the host country. The hardships and measures attending the transfer could have been avoided had the United States honored its obligations under the headquarters agreement. It is essential to avoid the repetition of such an offense which sets a precedence in the work of the world organization.

The action which has been taken by the U.S. secretary of state to prevent the PLO Executive Committee chairman from arriving at the UN headquarters is unacceptable no matter what the justifications. This would mean giving certain powers to a UN member state to impose restrictions on the work of the world organization contrary to its charter and independence.

Mr Chairman, the General Assembly is again debating the Palestine question while fully aware of the developments which have taken place during the past 41 years. It was the General Assembly which passed the 1947 resolution partitioning Palestine into two states; a Jewish state and an Arab state. That resolution constituted the birth of the Palestine question as the world knows it today and the beginning of its cumulations which are still continuing. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian people, through their heroic uprising, have put their cause in its proper international perspective. The uprising has underlined the fact that Israel will not be able to maintain by force the status quo forever. Also, the Palestinian people have been capable of projecting, in clear black and white terms, its national identity as a colonized people aspiring to attain national independence through a genuine and sincere orientation toward peace and a desire to coexist with the other side on the basis of its ability to exercise its inalienable national rights, foremost of which is the right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state on its national territory. This was expressed in recent PNC resolutions, which have stressed the PLO's commitment to reach a lasting and comprehenisve peaceful settlement to the Palestine question.

Jordan has persistently, especially since 1967, advocated a peaceful, just, comprehensive, and lasting settlement of the Palestine question on the basis of the UN Charter and the relevant resolutions adopted by the world body.

In his speech before the General Assembly's 40th session, His Majesty King Husayn said that the resolutions, which constitute a balanced basis for any just peaceful settlement, are Resolution No 181 issued in 1947 partitioning Palestine, Resolution No 194 issued in 1948 on the refugees issue, Resolution No 242 issued in 1967 calling for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and stressing the right of all countries in the rgion to live in peace within secure and recognized borders, and Security Council Resolution No 338 issued in 1973 calling for negotations among the disputing parties.

All these resolutions enjoy full international approval because they include the main important principles, which if successfully applied will guarantee the desired solution.

Jordan considered Security Council Resolution No 242, right from the moment of its adoption, the chief basis for peace initiatives and international efforts to cope with the results of the 1967 war. Accordingly, Jordan persisted in its efforts, both at the inter-Arab and international levels, to mobilize support for the compliance with, as well as implementation of, that resolution. Jordan's acceptance of the resolution was the beginning of an Arab movement toward efforts to reach a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the crux of which is the Palestine question.

This position has quickly advanced during the past few years and was epitomized in the Arab summit conference's resolutions in Fes in 1982, when the Arabs adopted a unified position committed to international legitimacy as a basis for settling the Arab-Israeli dispute. This was followed by joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts as part of that trend. Then the Arab consensus during the two Arab summit conferences in Amman in 1987 and in Algiers in 1988 on the need to hold an international peace conference came as another confirmation of that trend.

Finally, all this led to the emergence of a serious and clear Palestinian position on peace expressed by the resolutions issued by the PNC during its recent session in Algiers. We believe that this opportunity should not be missed. This opportunity, if coupled with the good intentions of the other side in the Arab-Israeli conflict, will constitute a very important contribution to the peace march, because there is no use in Israel's prevarication and its denial of the Palestinian's true eagerness to live in peace within an independent Palestinian state side by side with Israel.

We are confident that the international community, and even those who advocate the opposite, are fully aware that there is a high degree of a moderate and responsible position based on the principles stated in the international resolutions to which I have referred. Irrespective of whether the recent PNC resolutions literally meet the terms and conditions set by some powers, it is nonetheless essential to acknowledge that the formal Palestinian movement toward peace has now taken a distinct documented form so that any attempts to cast aspersions upon that are uncalled for and would prove pointless.

The question that must now be raised is whether Israel is really ready to respond to this Arab and Palestinian position and whether the United States, which has been insisting on a specific recognition of Israel by the Palestinians, will be ready to request a similar recognition by Israel of the Palestinian side and its legitimate national rights. [passage omitted] Mr Chairman, regarding the double-dealing and selectivity which some sides practice toward the parties to the conflict. It is also regrettable to note that the United States does not respond to the important and positive developments in the Palestinian stand which gained the satisfaction and appreciation of the whole world.

This negative U.S. stand conflicts with frequent U.S. promises and commitments to reconsider its stand toward holding contacts with the PLO if it accepted UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, recognized Israel, and renounced terrorism. The PLO has done this through the recent PNC resolutions which have just been reaffirmed by 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

We hope that the new U.S. Administration will shake itself loose from the legacy it has inherited, including the recent decision by the secretary of state, so that it would contribute in a constructive fashion to the peace process both as a superpower and a power that has been providing a major party to the conflict with all means of strength and sustenance.

Mr Chairman, Jordan, as a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and as a country with an organic association with the Palestine question, will continue its uninterrupted efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement guaranteeing desperately-needed security and stability for all the region's peoples. Jordan will also continue its constructive cooperation with the sincere international efforts, which we hope will be resumed immediately and in an intensified manner, to put the peace process on the right course and reactivate it toward convening the international peace conference.

In this regard, we hope that the UN secretary general's efforts will receive support and cooperation from all parties to the conflict and the UN Security Council five permanent member states so that the international conference is held as early as possible. Within the framework of such conference, efforts will be made to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and its crux, the Palestine question, in all its aspects. This will serve security, peace, and stability not only in the Middle East, but in the whole world as well.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Criticizes U.S. Stand on PLO

JN1412082088 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Dec 88 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Peace Initiative"]

[Text] Out of his deep sense of history and continuous concern for a just and lasting peace, His Majesty King Husayn congratulated Yasir 'Arafat for the speech he delivered before the UN General Assembly in Geneva yesterday which contains a Palestinian peace initiative based on maximum flexibility, realism, and eagerness to avert the region the eruption of a new devastating war.

In his contact with Yasir 'Arafat, King Husayn stressed Jordan's firm support for the PLO's efforts to achieve the Palestinian people's aspirations to end the Israeli occupation, exercise their right to self-determination, and establish their independent state on their national soil.

The PLO leader has launched a Palestinian peace initiative based on freedom, dignity, and peace—a peace initiative which does not bow to blackmail, power, or the arrogance of the occupation. The initiative is based on three points that enjoy international consensus. Only the Israeli occupiers and their strategic ally reject it.

It has been confirmed that the PLO is seriously seeking a just peace and that it gave, through its leader, new evidence of its eagerness to see procedural steps to achieve peace on the basis of yesterday's initiative.

As expected, the Israeli occupation authorities turned away from the Palestinian hand which is stretched out in peace because these authorities believe that the current situation will last forever.

Israel's historical short-sightedness, demonstrated by its expansionist and settlement policy, will miss a rare historic opportunity to bring about peace in the Middle East and replace the armament race, violence, and counterviolence with security and stability.

The Israeli occupation authorities prove that they are against peace, human rights, and the international unanimity on the need to eliminate the centers of regional conflicts and completely liquidate the areas of tension on just bases that will guarantee the nations' legitimate rights.

As usual, the U.S. Administration has rejected the Palestinian people's legitimate rights because it is influenced by Zionist pressure lobbies. This Administration has again rejected the Palestinian peace initiative instead of pressuring its strategic ally to respond to a just and comprehensive peace and abandon the policy of occupation, repression, arrogance, and state terrorism.

The U.S. Administration, whose behavior conflicts with justice, right, and peace, finds itself at odds with the world's countries and peoples who condemn the Israeli occupation and denounce the occupation's tyranny against the brave and glorious uprising that calls for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of the independent state on their national soil.

The U.S. position on the Palestinian peace initiative should prompt the Arab nation to exercise maximum pressure to isolate this position and make it so costly that those who adopt it will be forced to abandon it in favor of right, justice, peace.

Shaykh Sha'ban Denounces 'Arafat's Speech
NC1412072188 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has strongly denounced Arab reactionaries and Yasir 'Arafat. He said that in the past the Arab regimes sold Palestine to the Zionist entity, and today, 'Arafat, the only and official representative of the Palestinian people, came to support in Geneva what these regimes had sold.

His Eminence Shaykh Sha'ban stressed that the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon and the rest of the Islamic nations in the world will continue their struggle until Israel is eradicated.

3 Palestinian Deportees Arrive in South
NC1412141488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The Israeli occupation authorities deported three Palestinians to southern Lebanon this afternoon. They are 'Isa 'Id al-Salih Hammadi, a 60-year-old man from Gaza; 'Abd al-Fattah Mahmud Ziyarah, aged 52; and Ahmad Hasan Muhanna, aged 49, from Khan Yunis. The three deportees arrived at a Lebanese Army checkpoint in Marj al-Zuhur this afternoon in an Israeli military jeep.

Amal Statement on 13 Dec Clash With Hizballah
NC1312103788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] After the situation in the Al-Shiyyah area was restored to normal following this morning's skirmishes, a source in the security committee has said that work will begin today to return the displaced families of the southern suburb and West Beirut to their homes, under the supervision of the Syrian forces.

Meanwhile, a security source in the Amal Movement has said the following: In the early hours of this morning, Hizballah groups in Al-Hajjaj and Al-Shiyyah began to direct fire and launch rockets at the movement's posts and the nearby residential areas in Al-Shiyyah. The Syrian Arab Forces were compelled to intervene to restore normality.

Resistance Group Attacks 'Agent' Position 14 Dec
NC1412125988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT Dec 88

[Statement issued by the command of the National Resistance Front on 14 December; place not given]

[Text] On the 1st anniversary of the uprising of our Palestinian people and on the anniversary of the birth of leader Kamal Junblatt, the martyrs Yunis Ramadan and Muhammad Salih group, comrades of Suha Bisharah, attacked an agent position on the Sfaray-Anan road at 0545 today, using rockets and small- and medium-caliber automatic weapons. Sleeping quarters used by the agent soldiers received direct hits, and were seen to be on fire.

A support group then directed 107-mm rockets at the position, scoring accurate hits and inflicting several casualties—dead and wounded—among the agents. Subsequently, the enemy then carried out a wide-scale raking operation in the area, using artillery and mortars.

We promise our people and the martyrs that we will continue the struggle until complete liberation.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi Addresses 'Uprising' Rally
JN1212170688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1243 GMT 12 Dec 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi at a rally in Damascus on 12 December marking the 1st anniversary of the Palestinian 'uprising'—recorded]

[Excerpts] Brothers and sisters; Palestinians striving to end Israeli occupation and take away your right to self-determination and statehood on your national soil; revolutionaries who have achieved glory using stones—the revolutionaries who have invented a most potent type of weapon as it is underpinned by profound faith and firm will. [passage omitted]

Allow me to convey to you from the Arab city of Damascus the greetings of Arabism. It gives me great pleasure to represent His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad [applause] and convey his greetings to you wherever you are—in your cities and villages or wherever you are entrenched on the battlefield, your heads proudly held aloft as your uprising enters its 2d year.

Yours is a continuing revolution because it is the revolution of a people, of right and justice, and of martyrs who are passing in a procession led by a banner soaked in purple—an uprising hardly precedented in history.

The uprising has come to convince firmly other peoples that it is the banner of the longest and greatest uprising, holding out the promise of certain triumph. [passage omitted]

Just as we have always raised the banner of Palestine, we now raise the slogan of its uprising—the slogan of the stone, slingshot, and blood, crying out to the world to rise. Here in Al-Asad's Syria we hear this cry of [words indistinct] and we give the uprising obligatory support and deserved backing expressed more in actions than in rhetoric. [passage omitted]

We in Syria stand unwaveringly alongside the uprising of our people in the occupied Arab territory. The credit in this pan-Arab stand belongs to our peope and our leader: our president and secretary general of our party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, [applause] who graciously entrusted me with representing him at this function. [passage omitted]

The Arabs should close ranks and discard their differences, join together, and regain their common trench after they have been liberated and freed themselves of the fetters that hamper their movement, curb their capacity for work, and reduce their efficiency so that they will approach the major pan-Arab objective, namely Arab unity—our ultimate, ideal aim and the repository of our strength, existance and fate.

It goes without saying that our foreign role depends on the strength of our domestic role, building our national economy in industry and agriculutre so as to enable us to carry on with the process of building our Armed Forces in terms of training and armament. This task, which we undertook to fulfil, is an ongoing process whose principles are taking root. [passage omitted]

I do not think I need to enumerate our contributions to the Palestinian cause. Our positions are well known, and our support for the cause has been visible since the 1948 tragedy. Our support was as visible during the revolution against the British occupation of Palestine as it is now in the uprising against the Israeli occupation. We are justly proud and honored to have extended all manner of backing and support to the Palestinian revolution and the various PLO factions.

Over the past decades, Syria has offered thousands of the cream of its most experienced children as martyrs in battles with the Zionist enemy. We have and continue to declare that the Palestinian cause, to quote the leader Al-Asad, is a fateful pan-Arab one. In matters of existence and fate, all of us take the initiative when it comes to sacrifice and honorable deeds. We have never wavered, slackened, or spared blood, arms, and money. Nor have we ever retreated or compromised.

Palestinian land is Arab territory. We cherish the West Bank and Gaza Strip as much as we do the Golan Heights, where our children are waging a relentless struggle. Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights was to avenge the war of liberation and to give vent to raging hatred against our national struggle to liberate the occupied Arab land and regain the rights of the fraternal Palestinian people.

Brothers and sisters, Syria's faith in these facts has exposed it as it always does to pressures seeking to force us into retreating, laxity, and trading part of the homeland's soil for another part of this soil. What has our position been? Consider, look, and let facts speak for themselves. You will find that Syria is determined to hold fast—yesterday, today, and tomorrow. You will find that Syria is determined to remain true to its principles, faithful to its political line of resistance, that it will not yield land or rights, and that it refuses to regain the Golan Heights in exchange for selling out the Palestinian cause.

You will find that our enemy, which has in its possession a destructive force and harbors aggressive intentions, is not to be confronted with concessions, as it always asks for more and more. The only answer to our enemy's arsenal of arms and aggressive strategy is steadfastness and the acquisition of its requirements, the most important of which are Arab unity, a striking force, and psychological preparedness to shoulder responsibilities and bear pain as Syria has done in defending the Arab

nation and the Palestinian cause and seeking to achieve a comprehensive strategic parity—the only route to steadfastness and liberation. [passage omitted]

From Damascus, the capital of steadfastness and confrontation, the principal trench of resistance, we raise the banner of support for, participation in, and appreciation of the Arab uprising that now celebrates its 1st anniversary and begins another year: the uprising, which has become a beacon for Arab and other revolutionaries whose land has been occupied or is threatned with occupation. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Damascus Radio on Al-Asad's Riyadh Visit
JN1312191588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad arrived today in Riyadh at 1400, Damascus time, on a visit to Saudi Arabia. He is accompanied by Vice Presdident 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. His excellency the president was accorded an official reception at the Riyadh airport. Leading those who received him at the ramp were Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; and Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh area.

The national anthems of Syria and Saudi Arabia were played, and the president and King Fahd reviewed the honor guards. Then the president shook hands with the princes; ministers; and senior officers in the Armed Forces, the National Guard, and the security forces who received him at the airpoirt. After a short rest at the royal hall at the airport, the president and King Fahd headed in an official motorcade toward the guest palace, the president's place of residence in Riyadh.

An escort mission under Education Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir was formed to accompany his excellency the president. The custodian of the two holy mosques will host a banquet this evening to honor the president.

Qaddurah Receives USSR Parliamentary Delegation
JN1312211388 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Rafik Nishanov, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uzbekistan, has voiced his appreciation for Syria's constructive stands on regional issues, led by the Middle East issue. This came about during a reception for Nishanov and his delegation by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Rahman Burwai, secretary general of the Arab Parliamentary Union, and the USSR charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Nishanov noted that Israel's intransigent stands on this issue constitute a major obstacle to a solution of this problem. Nishanov expressed his appreciation for Syria's positive stands on the USSR's initiatives on the issues of international detente, stopping the arms race, and banning weapons of mass destruction and nuclear weapons that threaten humanity.

For his part, Qaddurah noted that Syria values highly the USSR's stands in support of the just Arab causes in all fields and on all occasions.

Relief Aid to Armenia To Continue 'Daily'
JN1312150688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Damascus—Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president, vice chairman of the Progressive National Front [PNF], and head of the higher committee for supporting and backing the people of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic, has stressed that relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the USSR are long-standing and firm. The masses of our people in Syria appreciate Soviet support for and backing of our just pan-Arab struggle in all world forums and on all levels, he said.

Answering a question from SANA, Mashariqah added: The masses of our Syrian Arab people will express their pride in their friendship with the Soviet Union and their appreciation of its role in supporting our struggle by helping in every way they can the victims of the earthquake in Armenia. [passage omitted]

At 1000 today, two large cargo planes took off [for the Soviet Union]. The crews were seen off by Mr Mashariqah; Fayiz Isma'il, Safwan Qudsi, and Danyal Ni'mah, members of the Central Committee of the PNF; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; some members of the Higher Committee for Supporting the People of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic; the Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus; and the embassy's senior staff.

Today's consignment includes medicine and medical supplies, and quantities of food, clothes, blankets, and other items. SANA's correspondent has learned that in accord with the decisions of the higher committee and as an expression of full sympathy with the friendly peoples of the Soviet Union, consignments of support and material relief will continue daily as needed and in coordination with the concerned Soviet authorities. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Rebel Leader Rabbani Rejects Demilitarization

PM1312131788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Dec 88 p 3

[Jamal Khashuqji and 'Adnan Ibrahim report: "Mujahidin Unanimously Reject Gorbachev Proposals"]

[Text] Peshawar—Afghan Mujahidin Alliance Leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani has stated that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals are contrary to the spirit of the talks held last week for the first time between the mujahidin and the Soviets in Al-Ta'if.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Rabbani said Gorbachev's proposals, particularly on demilitarization and an international conference, will not bring about an early settlement to the Afghan question, but will impede the peace process and highlight the procrastination and delay in the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan which is supposed to take place immediately.

Professor Rabbani said that as the Soviets have agreed to direct talks with the mujahidin, they are not justified in calling for an international conference. If the Soviets are against the mujahidin's having a UN representative as an observer, he said why are they calling for an international conference.

On Gorbachev's proposal on demilitarizing Afghanistan, Professor Rabbani said that if there is any justification for demilitarizing any state then that state should be the Soviet Union itself, which is the aggressor and the state that launched the war against a small and weak state.

He added: Our bitter experience with the Soviets prompts us to reject the proposal for the demilitarization of Afghanistan.

He said that proposal is not new because the Kabul regime's prime minister mentioned it on his recent visit to the United Nations; at that time it was rejected. He added that the Afghan people took up arms as a legitimate right to defend their religion and their land.

On future negotiations, he said they will be held very soon. He did not rule out the possibility that some of the talks will be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, particularly the last round. He said: We prefer to have the conclusion of the negotiations and the signing of the agreement on full Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in Saudi Arabia, where they started, there in Al-Ta'if.

Rabbani said that in Al-Ta'if the Soviets suggested a truce or what Gorbachev called a "cease-fire." He added: There can be no truce so long as the Soviet occupation forces are there and the lackey government is still there. Rabbani sees the proposal that the warring forces should remain in their positions for the duration of the negotiations as a plot to partition the country, but he did not deny that the proposal implies Soviet recognition and admission that the mujahidin are the party facing them and that the mujahidin are the ones who will replace the Soviets whenever a town falls or the Soviets withdraw from it.

Meanwhile, Islamic Party leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar has described the Soviet initiative as unrealistic and an attempt to procrastinate. At a news conference he held in Peshawar the day before yesterday, attended by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that although it looks good on the surface, the Gorbachev initiative aims at preserving the Najibullah government and helping it to keep the areas under its control.

Hikmatyar reaffirmed his rejection of the proposal calling for the demilitarization of Afghanistan. He also rejected the idea of bringing UN forces into Afghanistan. Such forces, he said, would be treated like any other foreign force and would be engaged.

He said that if there is any need for such forces, then the place where they should naturally be deployed is inside the Soviet borders with Afghanistan to prevent the Soviets from interfering yet again in Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Operations in East, West Detailed

BK1312162588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, mujahidin captured the Nur Pass area in Nangarhar last week. An AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY report today says more than 60 Kabul soldiers were killed or wounded in this operation.

The mujahidin captured 51 Kabul soldiers and seized a tank, three mortars, five heavy machine guns, and a large quantity of other weapons. They launched an attack near Jalalabad and inflicted losses on the Kabul forces. The mujahidin also carried out operations in the cities, airports, and near the new city areas in Qandahar Province.

Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have also carried out successful operations in Balkh, Konduz, Baghlan, Parvan, Ghanzi, Herat, Paktia, and other areas.

Defense Official on Opening of Major Highways

LD1412100788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 13, BAKHTAR—The extremist armed groups wanted to occupy Jalalabad city and along with the Pakistani militia and U.S. advisers tried to fulfil their plans, and resorted to hostile acts and created panic among citizens in areas of Jalalabad-Towr Kham and Kabul-Jalalabad highways.

It was stated by Maj. Gen. Muhammad Anwar, president of operation department of the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The belligerent elements fired ground-to-ground rockets, resorted to plunder and slaying, destroyed houses and drowned hundreds of our countrymen in the river. They committed more unforgivable crime by conducting anti-state propaganda among the rural and urban people.

Therefore to rebuff the crimes of war-mongers, regional forces, self-defence groups and armed forces of Jalalabad undertook strict measures and started their combing operations in Towr Kham, Deh Bala, Nazian, Pachir and Agam areas and dealt scattering blows on belligerents, and opened Towr Kham-Jalalabad and Jalalabad-Kabul highways, said Maj. General Muhammad Anwar.

He went on to say that these combat operations which were conducted to stabilize situation in the country and in the region rescued people from sabre-rattling. We have always created heroic epics in our operation for the Armed Forces and have suppressed the opposition groups. These operations erased all the morale of the enemy and large amounts of their arms and ammunition fell to the hands of our valorous soldiers and officers.

The mopping up operations which were conducted in Jalalabad, Towr Kham and Sarowbi, reinstalled all security posts in Towr Kham with the national flag fluttering on it, thanks to the heroism of brave militants of the Armed Forces. The operations totally cleaned the transit way which is open for the traffic.

Despite the stubborn resistance of belligerent elements, Kabul-Nangarhar highway was also opened for traffic. Every day over 200 passenger buses and transport vehicles go to and from Jalalabad. Drivers are happy for the security ensured by the security posts set up on the two sides of the Kabul-Jalalabad, Jalalabad-Towr Kham highways, he added.

Bangladesh

Police Clash With Strikers; 1 Killed, 100 Wounded

BK1412060488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 14 (AFP)—One person was killed and about 100 injured, including 20 policemen, in clashes between police and striking transport workers in north-western Bangladesh, press reports said Wednesday.

Police used tear gas and opened fire, mostly with warning shots, against hundreds of striking drivers hurling bricks in the industrial town of Bogra late Tuesday, the reports said.

One man was killed when police opened fire, the reports quoted witnesses and local journalists as saying, and 100 people were injured, 20 of them policemen.

Officials in Bogra, 160 kilometres (100 miles) from here, denied that anyone had died in police firing, and said that the man named in the press reports had died in a train accident.

Police detained some 60 people including protesting drivers for rioting during Tuesday's clashes that left about 50 vehicles damaged, press reports said.

Transport workers in Bogra, a major focus of road routes linking Dhaka with the northwestern districts, have been on strike for the past five days demanding the release of a driver arrested early this month following a road accident in which two policemen were killed.

The strike has disrupted road communications in north-western districts keeping them cut-off from the capital, earlier reports said.

The mass circulation daily ITTEFAQ said Tuesday's trouble began when a group of workers backed by owners and local authorities tried to defy the strike and bring some vehicles out on the roads. The transport owners have said the strike was illegal.

India

'Non-Explosive' U.S. Missile Hits Merchant Ship

BK1312130788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] One of the crew members aboard an Indian merchant ship "Jagvivek" was killed and some others injured when the ship was hit by a non-explosive exercise Harpoon missile from a U.S. Navy ship near Pearl Harbor.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that the injured have been evacuated by the U.S. Navy and the ship has been provided all help. He said the U.S. State Department has expressed regret over the accident and offered condolences.

Venkataraman Greets Ishaq Khan on Election

BK1312163288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan took over as president of Pakistan today. He was sworn in by the chief justice of the Pakistan Supreme Court, Mr Mohammad Haleem, in Islamabad.

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has greeted Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan. In a message, the president said Mr Ishaq Khan brings to the high office vast experience and great knowledge. Mr Venkataraman expressed the hope that Pakistan, and indeed, India-Pakistan relations would gain thereby. Conveying his best wishes for the personal well-being of Mr Ishaq Khan, Mr Venkataraman hoped that he would succeed in the great responsibilities that have been bestowed on him.

Delegation Accompanying Gandhi to China Listed

BK1312161688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 dec 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, will be accompanied by a high-level delegation during next week's visit to China.

Apart from Mrs Sonia Gandhi, the delegation will include the minister for external affairs, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao; the law minister, Mr B. Shankaranand; the commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Singh; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh; the foreign secretary, Mr K.P.S. Menon; the secretary in the prime minister's office, Mrs Serla Grewal; the information and broadcasting secretary, Mr G.K. Arora; and other officials.

Iran

Protesters Occupy Consulate in Geneva

AU1412125088 Paris AFP in English 1223 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Geneva, Dec 14 (AFP)—Opponents to the Iranian government on Wednesday occupied the Iranian consulate here and took staff members hostage to protest reports of political executions.

The protesters wrote on a window "We are not armed" and threw out torn portraits of the Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

In a leaflet, they protested the "massive number of executions since last August."

The protesters said similar occupations of Iranian diplomatic missions were planned in West Germany, the United States, Britain, Spain, Italy and Pakistan.

In London, police reported arresting four people during a demonstration in front of the offices of Iran Air, but no other protest action.

On Tuesday the human rights monitoring organization Amnesty International charged Iranian authorities had executed at least a dozen political prisoners in recent weeks. It said evidence that [illegible] sentences had been carried out was now "indisputable" having been gathered from a variety of sources.

Iran subsequently denied the charges and accused Amnesty of accepting money from Baghdad to suppress information on human rights violations in Iraq.

2 Killed in Iraqi Cease-Fire Violation

LD1312134888 Tehran IRNA in English 1200 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Two Iranian border guards were martyred and four others wounded when Iraqi troops heavily shelled a road in Kushk region, southwest of Ahvaz in the southern fronts on December 11.

According to a military official, at 12:30 hours local time (09:00 GMT) Sunday, Iraqi forces, besides opening machinegun fire, fired nine rounds of RPG-7 grenades and 24 rounds of artillery and mortar shells at Iranian positions on "Nim Istgah-e Navad" axis in Kushk.

In order to silence the fire of the Iraqi troops, Iran's Muslim combatants fired seven rounds of mortar shells, 12 rounds of RPG-7 grenades and 10 rounds of machinegun bullets at their positions.

The Baghdad regime has repeatedly violated a cease-fire which went into effect between Iran and Iraq on August 20.

The Islamic Republic has lodged an official complaint with the headquarters of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in Tehran.

According to the latest report, UNIIMOG Deputy Commander Brigadier General James Kelly departed for Ahvaz Monday to inspect the area.

Khamene'i Promises Solutions to Tribal Problems

LD1312183188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Interview with President 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified Central News Unit correspondent in Firuzabad, Fars Province, date not given—recorded]

[Text] Continuing his journey to Fars Province today, President Khamene'i visited the tribal region of Firuzabad and in a gathering of the tribes of (Dasht-e Lar), in the Firuzabad township, praised and expressed appreciation for the extensive part the tribes have played in safeguarding the Islamic revolution.

In an interview with a Central News Unit reporter the president described the importance of the role of the tribes in various fields.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [Please could you tell us about the role of the tribes in the Holy Defense and also, [word illegible] your glorious [illegible] in the Muslim [illegible] and [illegible] in all the events [illegible] and tribes have had, especially regarding their livestock and [word indistinct], their lifestyle, and such matters.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The role of tribes has been prominent, not only in the war itself but also in the administration of the country. It still is and will continue to be so in the future.

The war was an event which affected the whole Muslim nation of Iran and everyone played a part in it. The tribes also, in fairness and justifiably so, shouldered their responsibility and took a prominent role in carrying out this responsibility.

I personally witnessed some of their deeds in this respect. However, the chief role of the tribes, apart from their role in safeguarding the homeland, and the role of the border tribes in protecting the borders, is in the area of pastoralism—which is among the most important of the country's needs. In the past our tribes practiced traditional pastoralism; they are still doing so and will in the future too. This great responsibility lies with the tribes who have a lot of experience of this. They can put this experience to good use.

However, in the past the tribes have been socially oppressed, as well as economically, which has much to do with the kind of economic life they lead. The greatest oppression they suffered was social oppression; that is, landlordism, cruelty, and bullying of tribal leaders, as well as feuds, and the pressures of life in the tribes which were cruelly exploited by those more powerful than them in human, social, and economic terms. Some of the tribal leaders fled; some were thrown out by their own clans and tribes; some were punished.

Today, the tribes can fulfill their useful and proper role, but a few problems persist. The brothers that we have been meeting with have listed their problems and grievances, most of which I was aware of because I had been informed of them previously. These are problems greatly affecting the tribes' living conditions but which nevertheless can be eliminated by the executive authorities. So these problems can be solved. Some can be solved easily, others cannot because it will take some time, years in some cases. God willing, these will be eventually eliminated and the situation of the tribes will improve.

Of course, some of their problems, such as disputes with the nonmigrating rural population over migration routes and pastureland, are more complex. Both sides face real problems. Some villages have turned the pasturelands which previously lay within tribal boundaries and were used by the tribes for their livestock into arable farming land, but the benefits the country derived from arable farming are not so great as the benefits derived from pasturelands. Such problems will be solved but they cannot be expected to be solved quickly.

In any case, those brothers who are responsible for this task should [illegible] and [illegible] this, the task should [illegible] for [illegible] for cooperating with the tribal organization. When I was talking in Tehran to our brother, Mr (Zahra'ian) who is responsible for tribal affairs—this was before I came down to Fars—I realized that these gentlemen are all quite aware of the problems of the tribes; they have written them down and listed them and they also know of ways to solve these difficulties.

So, these problems are not insoluble. But everyone must cooperate and God willing, when we return to Tehran we shall offer advice and suggestions to the relevant bodies about these difficulties so that they can be eliminated. [end recording]

USSR Envoy Comments on Antidrug Cooperation

LD1312163288 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 13, IRNA—Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev has expressed Moscow's interest to cooperate with the Islamic Republic in fighting drug trafficking which has recently spread in the Soviet Union.

The issue was raised during a meeting with Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi during which latest developments on Afghanistan and the earthquake in Soviet Armenia were also discussed.

Mohtashemi said the former regime tried to destroy Iranian youth by its direct involvement in drug trafficking. "Unfortunately," he added "the signs (of this problem) still exist with the support of foreign powers."

Iran was ready to expand cooperation with the Soviet Union in fighting drugs and terrorism and in the field of security, he said.

On Afghanistan, the Soviet ambassador said it was hoped that Iran would help to solve the Afghan issues "which will certainly have a positive impact on the whole region."

Gudev also denounced the presence of foreign military forces in the Persian Gulf. He said Moscow has always opposed the presence of the United States and her allies in the Persian Gulf as they constitute a "serious threat to regional security and tranquility and even to the Soviet Union."

Pointing out Iran's role in the stability of the region, the Soviet diplomat called for the expansion of mutual political and economic ties.

Mohtashemi said the Islamic Republic was ready to help the quake-stricken Soviet people in the Republic of Armenia. "We feel how bitter such incidents are and understand your situation," he said.

UK Charge d'Affaires Views Relations

[illegible]

[illegible] KEYHAN in Persian [illegible] Dec 88 p 14

[Report on interview with British Charge d'Affaires in Iran Gordon Pirie with unidentified correspondent of KEYHAN's Political Department in Tehran on 5 December]

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the newly reopened British Embassy in Tehran was interviewed by our correspondent in Tehran. While expressing optimism

over the future of British-Iranian trade relations, he commented on the past performance of the British Government in Tehran and said:

"It must be admitted that in the past the British Government followed an interfering attitude in Iran, but one must note that that era ended years ago." He expressed regret that it is difficult "for Iranians to forget that era of British interference, which is now a mere part of history."

He added that "in the present era of Iranian-British relations, the British Government has no intention of interfering in Iran's internal affairs. It desires only normal and cordial relations with Iran within the framework of international agreements."

The 52-year-old British diplomat Gordon Pirie knows some Persian. In answer to a question by our correspondent on the reason for the non-implementation of Resolution No 598 and the presence of British warships in the Persian Gulf after the cease-fire, he answered that because he had traveled to Iran by land, his information was incomplete in this regard.

He contented himself with mere generalities and spoke only of Iran's use of chemical weapons, saying: "The use of chemical weapons is particularly important to Great Britain." According to him, Great Britain is awaiting the results of international investigations before adopting any position.

He has been assigned to Iran on two previous occasions, in 1964-68 in the commercial section of the British Embassy, and in 1977-79 as the press attache. Regarding the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Great Britain at present and in the coming years, he said:

We are optimistic regarding the future relations between our two countries. I hope that the volume of trade between Iran and Great Britain increases over what it was in the past. Last year the volume of mutual trade amounted to 488 million pounds sterling, 308 million pounds of which were British exports to Iran. The remaining 188 million pounds represent Iran's exports to Britain.

Regarding the possibility of and the level of trade exchange in the next year, he said: I cannot predict any definite figure, but I hope the increase will be considerable.

Our correspondent stated: Iranian officials have announced that all the facilities available from other countries will be offered to any businessmen from this country willing to do business in Iran. What assistance in this regard during the talks between the Iranian and British delegations prior to the reopening of the British Embassy? Also, on principle, what kind of role can the British Government play in Iran's reconstruction?

The British charge d'affaires replied: To date, there have been no discussions on details of this matter between the two countries. On the British role in reconstruction in Iran in the postwar period, he said: As Great Britain has quite acceptable experts in areas in which Iran has placed greatest riority, I think that it can play a significant role in these matters. For example, in the fields of petrochemicals, gas, electricity generation, and marketing, we have facilities which would be useful.

He was told: Recently, a seminar on trade with Iran was held in one of the northern British cities. It was mentioned there that since Iran's political future was still ambiguous, it was not appropriate to trade with Iran in the short-term. What is your opinion of this?

Pirie said: I am totally opposed to this idea! I do not see any reason why there should not be any trade with Iran, even short-term. I am confident that trade with Iran will be lucrative.

[Correspondent] At the reopening of the embassy, you hoped for bilateral cooperation between Iran and Great Britain in various fields. In your opinion, what would be the most suitable fields for political and economic cooperation between Iran and Great Britain?

[Pirie] There have definitely been some remarkable political developments between the two countries in the past few months. In this context we may mention, for example, the reopening of the two embassies. In the political fields, all efforts will be made so that the relations between the two countries will become more fruitful than before.

[Correspondent] As one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, what do you consider the real difficulty in the implementation of Resolution No 598?

[Pirie] This is no easy question, and I do not consider myself qualified to answer it. Perhaps it would be better to put this question to the British Foreign Ministry in Great Britain or to the British UN representative, who has much more information in this regard.

[Correspondent] We would like your opinion, as you were appointed the British Government's representative in Iran.

[Pirie] Unfortunately, my knowledge is too limited for me to answer this question properly.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that the flames of war have subsided and there is shopping security in the Persian Gulf, what, in your opinion, is the reason for the Western/anti-Iranian propaganda within certain circles and Western and in particular British warships in the region?

[Pirie] I am unable to give you any reply, as, again, my knowledge is limited in this regard.

[Correspondent] Just as you have expressed your views on economic matters, we would like your opinion on political matters.

[Pirie] I do not have even the most elementary information regarding these matters which would answer your questions. The fact is, I have come to Iran with only a set of specific instructions and some information, and if you ask me questions concerning these I would be happy to reply. I have come to Tehran for the reopening of the British Embassy and to see that it begins functioning. In my opinion, the United Nations is the best place for discussion of such matters.

[Correspondent] You are certainly aware of Iraq's use of chemical weapons. Most of the countries of the world have condemned the use of chemical weapons. Are British political and economic considerations standing in the way of the condemnation of this act by your government?

[Pirie] British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe has said that the accusations regarding Iraq's use of chemical weapons are numerous and extremely important. He has also expressed his own opinions on this. If investigations reveal that this is true, it will definitely be condemned. This matter is of extreme importance to the British Government as well, and has not gone unnoticed.

[Correspondent] Has your country officially announced that it is involved in an investigation of the use of chemical weapons by Iraq?

[Pirie] The investigation I am referring to is not only being conducted by the British Government. We are awaiting documentary evidence, on which work is in progress at the moment.

(The British charge d'affaires expressed his regret over the fact that, since he came to Tehran by land and was in transit for two weeks, he was naturally out of touch with the usual office contacts which keep officials informed of international events, which is why he was unable to give precise answers to questions on current political issues.)

The KEYHAN correspondent then asked him another question, adding that this question dates back farther than the two weeks the diplomat had been travelling. He said: On principle, the Iranians do not have a favorable impression of past British policies and British interference in their country's political and economic affairs. This is so clear that it does not require further elaboration. In your capacity as the first representative of the British Government appointed to Tehran after 8 years, what will you do to compensate for this tarnished record? Will you be able to compensate for this tarnished record?

[Pirie] We have returned to Iran with specific objectives and for specific reasons. We have officially recognized the Islamic Republic of Iran, and we respect it. We know that the Government of Iran has been legitimately elected by the people and we have no problems with the Islamic Republic of Iran in our relations so far. The two countries have agreed that the conditions for normal diplomatic relations must be created.

The reopening of the embassy is one of these steps. The two countries have concurred that our past problems, if there were any, and any problems that may surface in the future will be discussed and resolved in a normal and acceptable manner, as is done by all other countries.

[Correspondent] In your capacity as a diplomat, what is your impression of our Iranian people's opinion on your past activities in Iran?

[Pirie] This is the problem. We are aware of these issues, and we know that some problems exist. There is no doubt, and it should be admitted, that Iran and Great Britain have a long-standing joint history. It must be admitted that, in the past, the very distant past, Great Britain adopted a policy of interference in Iran. This is evident in history. In any case, what we must bear in mind now is that that era is over. It ended years ago.

In my opinion, Great Britain gave this up in 1950, and in the years following it concentrated mainly on its economic interests. As regards political interference, unfortunately it seems that it is very difficult for Iranians to forget British interference in Iran, which ended years ago and is now a mere part of history.

The fact is, however, we only desire normal cordial relations with the Iranian Government within the framework of international agreements. We have no intention of interfering in any way, and we want to forge mutual relations in the economic field.

[Correspondent] The most important point in Iran is this very tarnished record of Great Britain. You have not revealed anything, except that classified documents of the British Government were recently published. However, the decade from 1950 to 1960, which includes the period from 1950-53, marked the pinnacle of British interference in Iran. The question of the Iranian people is: How will the British Government compensate for this, and what guarantee is there that this sort of interference will not be repeated?

[Pirie] We have re-established our relations on the basis that there will be no interference in internal affairs, and we will respect this principle.

Continuing the interview, our correspondent asked when the exchange of ambassadors was scheduled. The British charge d'affaires replied: When the final agreement was ratified between the two countries, it was agreed that the question of the exchange of ambassadors would be studied and decided within 6 months.

In answer to a question on the number of diplomatic personnel in Tehran and London who would represent the two countries, Pirie said: Just one of each in each capital.

When asked when the number of the diplomatic staff would reach 16, as it was before, the British charge d'affaires said: According to the agreement reached, it was decided that in the next 3 or 4 months the number of staff at each embassy would be increased to 16.

To the last question, which asked about changes in procedure for obtaining entry visas for Britain, he said: Yes, we hope to be issuing visas in the next 3 months.

Editorial on Tehran-Bonn Ties, U.S. Influence
PM1312173588 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 7 Dec 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Shadow of Threat of U.S. Influence Over Relations Between Bonn and Tehran"]

[Text] The world's political circles regard the 2-day trip of the West German foreign minister to Tehran at the head of a 112-man political, economic, and press delegation as very important. Informed sources believe the German minister made the trip to Iran as the postwar messenger of the West. The makeup of the accompanying delegation indicates that the talks were at top-level. This is seen from the fact that the minister's talks with the Islamic Republic top leadership focused on the implementation of Resolution No 598, implementation of the UN secretary general's plan, the issue of human rights, and relations between the West and Iran.

Political sources also indicate that the issue of Western hostages in Lebanon also may have come up for discussion.

As far as the Iranian side was concerned, most important were the economic talks. It was understood that this trip was in reality an evaluation on both sides of each other's needs in regard to expanding political and economic relations between Tehran and Bonn.

The Iranian officials' emphasis on allowing wide German participation in the country's reconstruction schemes stems from that country's policies toward Iran and Iraq throughout the war. Bonn was one of the few industrialized capitals that followed a path of moderation and neutrality in the 8-year war. The German foreign minister was the first top-class world figure to recognize Iraq as the aggressor and the one who started the war. Keeping in mind West Germany's position before and after the war, this country has won the acceptance and respect of our officials and our people.

The Western world realized the Germans' special situation and to compete economically published a news item about a German company's misuse of funds in the building of the Esfahan refinery in 1971, thereby overshadowing the economic talks between the two countries in Tehran. VOA broadcast the news in an attempt to bring under question Japanese and German companies and thereby defeat the trip's economic purpose. But the German minister's comments as well as those of Iranian officials indicate that despite the wishes of the Western competitors, especially the United States, the German minister's trip and talks were useful.

What Iran is after in terms of expanding economic ties is obvious from the comments made by the finance and economy minister. He suggested the formation of a conglomerate of oil companies, factories, companies, and large banks from Germany as one trading partner with Iran. The mechanism would be that the German banks provide Iran funds to buy industrial equipment. The funds would then be paid back from the sale of oil through the oil companies, within the conglomerate. If this is put into action, Iranian deals with the conglomerate could top DM 5 billion in 2 years.

This proposal for German involvement in reconstruction of the oil industry, gas and energy, including the reconstruction of power plants, agriculture, mining, steel industry, and other basic works, could become a model of expanding relations between industrialized nations and those seeking development.

This all of course depends on whether Bonn can keep its relations with Iran safe from the threat of political pressures by the United States. The German people themselves feel in some way the political pressure of foreigners, through the superior military presence of a so- called ally. Keeping this in mind, one can remain hopeful toward the future of these relations and one can think of them as good examples for the region.

Of course, under such conditions, we will not witness similar actions which in the past helped darken the relations between the two countries. In the meantime, Washington will be the first obstacle in the path of healthy relations between Europe especially West Germany, and the developing world. The recent position taken by VOA at the start of the German minister's visit to Tehran was a simple exmaple of this.

Nepal

Prince Renounces Royal Title, Privileges 13 Dec
BK1312144588 Kathmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] His majesty the king has in response to a petition submitted on 8th December 1988 by His Royal Highness Prince Dhirendra Bir Bikram Shah seeking permission of his own free will to renounce the title of his royal highness prince and all associated privileges accorded under Nepalese law, granted permission with effect from 13th December 1988.

This was stated in a press communique issued today by the principal Press Secretariat of his majesty the king.

Pakistan

Ishaq Khan Sworn In; Leaders Talk With Press

BK1312154088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has taken the oath of office as president for 5 years. The oath was administered by Pakistan Chief Justice Mr Justice Mohammad Haleem at a glittering ceremony at the Presidency in Islamabad this afternoon.

Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto, Senate Acting Chairman Sayeed Fazal Agha, National Assembly Speaker Malik Meraj Khalid, the governors of four provinces, the chief ministers of Punjab and the NWFP, federal ministers, state ministers, special aides and advisers to the prime minister, chiefs of the three branches of the armed forces, members of parliament, diplomatic representatives, and senior civil and military officials attended the ceremony. The Azad Kashmir president and prime minister also attended the ceremony. After the ceremony the president was introduced to diplomatic representatives.

Talking briefly with newsmen, the president said he will try to maintain harmony between the Center and the provinces. He said there are no differences between the Pakistan People's Party and the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Democratic Alliance]. He will, however, try to remove any misunderstanding existing between them.

Answering a question about the economic problems facing the new government, the president said the elected government is trying to solve these problems. He would, however, be ready to help the government whenever it wanted his guidance.

Talking to newsmen after the oath-taking ceremony, Ms Benazir Bhutto expressed happiness that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has assumed the office of president for a new tenure of 5 years. She said now that elections for the office of president are over, the country can move forward toward achieving progress and prosperity on solid democratic grounds.

Answering a question, Ms Benazir Bhutto said her government will fully strive to solve the problems of the common man because she had come to power through his vote.

Answering another question, the prime minister said the rights of women in Pakistan are fully protected under the Constitution and Islam. She emphasized that Islam provides full independence to women as well as other sections of society.

Bhutto on Tension With India, 'Terrorists'

BK1312162788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, says India and her country can now build a new era and work for peace in the region. In an interview to a Calcutta daily, she said her democratic government will work for defusing the tension between the two sides.

In reply to a question, Ms Benazir Bhutto also said that the day of extremists is over. India should remove from her mind any doubt about Pakistan not discontinuing the policy of supporting terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir. She said Pakistan does not want such doubts to taint relations between the two countries. She also said that neither country should step up ethnic tensions.

She said she is looking forward to meeting the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, during the SAARC summit in Islamabad later this month.

Envoy Conveys Libyan Leader's Message to Bhutto

BK1312114988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Libyan ambassador, Mr Ibrahim 'Ali al-Jabri, called on Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in Rawalpindi today. He conveyed to her a message of greetings from the Libyan leader, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, on her assumption of office of the prime minister.

In his message, the Libyan leader expressed the confidence that bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries would be consolidated in the future.

Reciprocating his sentiments, Ms Benazir Bhutto said the people of Pakistan always held the Libyan leader and the people in high esteem and were keen that the existing relations between the two countries would improve further.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Upholds Indian Pact in BBC Interview

BK1412090488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 14 (AFP)—Outgoing President Junius Jayewardene has said a 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord aimed at ending Tamil unrest could not be replaced or scrapped as called for by the two main candidates to succeed him.

"There is nothing to abrogate in it, nor to renegotiate. It's over. It is a fait accompli," the 82-year-old president said in an interview with the BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BBC) here Tuesday [13 December].

But he said the time was near to send back an estimated 50,000 Indian troops deployed under the July 1987 accord with New Delhi, which sought to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The two major candidates in Monday's polls to elect a head of state to replace Mr. Jayewardene, stepping down after 11 years in power, have repeatedly spoken against the accord, which is also opposed by both Tamil and anti-government Sinhalese extremists.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa of Mr. Jayewardene's ruling United National Party (UNP) has said he would replace the accord with a friendship pact with India if he became president.

Opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) leader Sirimavo Bandaranaike has vowed to scrap the accord and send the Indian troops home.

Only the third presidential candidate, Ossie Abeygoonesekera of the leftwing Sri Lanka Mahajana Party (SLMP), backs the agreement.

Mr. Jayewardene said the withdrawal of Indian troops was "the privilege of the president right through. He can ask Indian troops to withdraw. Either (a) phased withdrawal or at once."

"Oh yes, oh yes," he said, when asked if the time for an Indian withdrawal was near.

India has lost nearly 700 soldiers since launching an offensive in October last year to disarm the dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), after it repudiated the peace agreement.

Mr. Jayewardene also accused terrorists of trying to overthrow his government in an apparent reference to the Sinhalese militant group the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front), which has been blamed for more than 1,200 killings since the accord with New Delhi was signed. Most victims have been supporters of the agreement.

The president said he "should share blame with everybody else" for the turmoil in Sri Lanka in the past five years, but added: "No particular blame can be cast on the government or the people or any individual in the government. It happens in every country.

"You might as well blame (British Prime Minister) Mrs. (Margaret) Thatcher for the IRA (Irish Republican Army) atrocities or (Prime Minister) Rajiv Gandhi for what's happening in Punjab and other parts of India. This is something the world has to live with today."

Mr. Jayewardene said the Sri Lankan Government had wanted to bring in Gurkhas to "do some static security work and relieve our forces of that. So far nothing has been done... It (the help) won't be needed." Nepalese Gurkhas serve in the armies of India, Nepal and Britain.

Asked what he had planned for his post-retirement period, he said: "I haven't thought of what to do, but I won't take part in any public activity at all. There are so many things one can do in the world."

Maximum Security Jail Raided; Inmates Freed

BK1312163488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] Colombo, Dec 13 (AFP)—Anti-government gunmen stormed Sri Lanka's maximum security prison here Tuesday [13 December] and freed an unspecified number of inmates, police said.

Activists believed to be from the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP or People's Liberation Front) exploded bombs and broke into the Welikada Prison, police said.

It was not immediately clear how many had been freed, but the escapees were JVP prisoners, a police officer said, quoting first reports from the scene.

Simultaneously, JVP men exploded a bomb at Colombo's main shopping centre, killing one person and wounding several others, police said. The motive for the attack was not immediately known.

Residents in Welikada said the area was cordoned off by hundreds of heavily armed soldiers backed by low-flying helicopters. "We could hear firing for about an hour. There is lot of tension here. Roads have been sealed off by troops," one resident contacted by telephone said.

A military spokesman here confirmed the report and said "some prisoners had escaped," but could not give details. The police officer said the attackers may have escaped in a hijacked government bus.

Unconfirmed reports said two JVP suspects were killed when soldiers guarding the prison fought back.

A mutiny by political prisoners at Welikada left two inmates dead and nearly 50 wounded last month.

The JVP freed five inmates from a Remand prison in central Kandy District Saturday and escaped with 31 guns from jail guards.

The group is violently opposed to the government and has been carrying on a violent campaign to force the government to step down before the December 19 presidential election.

Over 220 Prisoners Escape

BK1412033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, more than 220 hard-core JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front] prisoners escaped from (Magzine) Jail in the capital, Colombo, after a breakout.

The island's prison commissioner, Mr Dharmadasa, told our Colombo correspondent that the jailbreak occurred after the prisoners burst bombs, causing a breach in the wall of their prison cell. Security men, who were on guard duty outside the jail, opened fire.

A police spokesman said in the gunbattle which followed, two of the fleeing prisoners were killed and some others injured. Some of them who escaped were involved in an attack on the Sri Lankan Air Force base at Katunayake earlier this year.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed in Trincomalee Area

BK1312144688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, Dec 13 (AFP)—An indefinite curfew was clamped in Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee District Tuesday [13 December], a day after Indian and Sri Lankan troops exchanged fire and six people died following a reported Tamil rebel attack.

Sri Lankan military sources said the curfew was ordered throughout the coastal region after police found the bodies of two Sinhalese and a naturalised Chinese in Trincomalee town Tuesday, sparking off panic.

The cause of their death was not known, but the sources said it could be linked to the killing of five Tamil guerrillas by the Sri Lankan Army Monday during which Sri Lankan troops fired at Indians and the latter replied with mortar fire.

One Indian was killed and three Sri Lankan soldiers were wounded in the fighting, the first of its kind in the district this year, Indian diplomats and military officials said.

The Sri Lankan Army is largely Sinhalese, the island's majority community.

An unknown number of Tamil militants lobbed grenades at a Sri Lankan military camp and tried to escape towards an Indian outpost across the road when the Sri Lankans opened fire, killing five of the attackers, the sources here said.

The five were identified as members of the pro-Indian Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF). EPRLF officials were not immediately available here for comment.

The Indian High Commission (embassy) here said one Indian soldier also died in the Sri Lankan firing.

A Sri Lankan military spokesman, who was not aware of the Indian casualty, said five civilians, including a Buddhist monk, were wounded in the crossfire, without saying who was firing at whom.

The incident had reportedly sparked off tension between Indian and Sri Lankan troops in multi-ethnic Trincomalee, where Tamils, Sinhalese and Muslims live in almost equal numbers.

Lieutenant General Amarjit Singh Kalkat, commander of the 50,000-strong Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka, rushed to Colombo following the violence to consult Indian diplomats.

The Indian High Commission contradicted the Sri Lankan version of the incident, pinning the cause for Monday's trouble on an alleged assault on some Indian troops by "armed miscreants in Sri Lankan police uniform" Sunday.

It said in a statement that a Tamil civilian was killed when the "miscreants" fired at a group of Tamil and Sinhalese people who had come to the rescue of Indian soldiers.

The statement accused the Sri Lankan Army of killing five Tamils, whom it did not identify, in a van without provocation Monday and firing at the Indian Army post, killing a soldier. "The IPKF was forced to return fire."

"The incident is an obvious attempt by interested parties to destablise the situation in Trincomalee and vitiate the (presidential) election atmosphere," it said.

Sri Lankan military officials were not immediately available to comment on the Indian charges. Presidential elections are due island-wide on December 19. [passage omitted]

Ministry Directs Employees To Report for Duty

BK1312134888 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Text] The Ministry of Public Administration has issued an order directing all the employees to report for duty immediately. Those who are already on leave should also report for duty.

This order will be in force from 1400 [0830 GMT] today. All those who do not report for duty will be considered to have lost their jobs. All the employees and other officials of Polonnaruwa court have been asked to report for duty at 0800 tomorrow morning.